

# ARMY



# NAVY

GAZETTE OF THE  
REGULAR

## JOURNAL.

AND VOLUNTEER  
FORCES.

VOLUME II.—NUMBER 25.  
WHOLE NUMBER 77.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1865.

SIX DOLLARS PER YEAR.  
SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS.

Publication Office 39 Park Row.

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### THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

THE long period of comparative quiet which the Army of the Potomac has enjoyed since Hatcher's Run and the expedition towards Weldon, is now, at length broken, and General GRANT has advanced to try his fortune once more in crossing swords with his accomplished adversary. With what success this new grand move of our pertinacious Lieutenant-General has been attended, can be easily judged from a perusal of its story.

The first warning of the movement occurred, we are told, more than a week ago, on the night of Tuesday, the 31st of January, when the entire Army of the Potomac—the Second, Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth corps—received marching orders. All the day and night following, the usual busy preparations for a forward movement went on, troops and baggage were transported here and there, hospitals were cleared, and the sick sent back to City Point. The quartermaster and commissary stores were sent out of harm's way, and there was a renewal, in fact, of the grand preparations made before the affair at Hatcher's Run. Four days' rations were distributed to the troops. A grand move was evidently to be essayed.

But, until Sunday, the 5th, nothing more was accomplished, and the interval was occupied by a severe shelling of the enemy's lines. On Tuesday, the 31st, our river batteries opened heavily on Petersburg, several shells falling into the city. The next day there was a renewal of artillery hostilities on the Appomattox, designed, like that of the preceeding, to cover our preparations. On Friday, the 3d, there was more very heavy firing, to which the enemy responded, along the Appomattox. On Saturday evening, to cover the move to take place on the day following, a very heavy and severe cannonading, lasting from 7 to 11 o'clock, was opened by us from the same place, the right centre of the Ninth corps, against the enemy's Chesterfield works. Under cover of the firing of Friday and Saturday nights, our cars were kept incessantly running, massing troops and supplies on the right, and carrying surplus baggage and the sick back to City Point.

On the afternoon of Saturday, the 4th, GREGG's division of cavalry received orders to march at 3 o'clock on the next morning, WARREN's Fifth corps to follow at 5 o'clock, and HUMPHREYS' Second corps to start at 6. The scene of manoeuvre was to be substantially that of the former attempt at Hatcher's Run, and this was, in general, to be a renewal of that affair, with such changes as our former lesson had taught us. As in the former case, it was designed to throw a corps across and behind the enemy's right flank, to get upon the Boydton Plank-road, take the enemy's strong works at Hatcher's Run in reverse, and, keeping north, strike the Southside Railroad. This move, if successful, would probably force the evacuation of Petersburg. To render it successful, the whole Army of the Potomac coöperated. WAR-

REN's corps, with GREGG's cavalry, was selected for the expeditionary or flanking column on this occasion, as HANCOCK's corps, with GREGG, had been chosen on the former.

On the morning of Sunday, the 5th, the designated troops were promptly in motion. GREGG's division started at 3 o'clock down the Jerusalem Plank-road, and Brigadier-General GREGG's brigade, the advance, reached Reams' Station soon after daybreak. At 5 o'clock on the same morning, the Fifth corps started behind the cavalry, AYRES' division in the advance, GRIFFIN's next, and CRAWFORD's in the rear. Its course lay along the Halifax Road. Westerly, on the Vaughan Road, were SMYTH's Second and MOTT's Third divisions of the Second corps, under HUMPHREYS. To them had been assigned the duty of moving directly on the works at Hatcher's Run, while the Fifth corps marched around their right. Each corps was accompanied by a certain number of batteries, and the troops carried four days' rations. They marched in excellent spirits, the weather and roads being all that could be desired.

From Reams' the cavalry column moved on towards Dinwiddie Court-House, and encountered at Rowanty Creek, a tributary of the Nottoway, its outpost, a part of HAMPTON's cavalry, dismounted, of course, and covered by breastworks on the opposite banks of the stream, commanding the bridges. The 2d and 13th Pennsylvania cavalry, and G-WYN's Third brigade of the Second division, Fifth corps, carried the temporary bridge and the works after a short skirmish, and captured 22 prisoners, our loss being less than 20 men. Two bridges were now built for the troops and trains to cross; for the stream was about 20 feet wide, and too deep for fording. The process of construction and the transportation of the men, ordnance, supply trains, and ambulances, caused a delay of several hours.

The cavalry, however, had already swept on to Dinwiddie Court-House, and captured a colonel, a mail, and an empty supply train of a dozen or more wagons, en route for North Carolina. Some of the latter were burned, and others were sent back to camp. From Dinwiddie scouting parties were sent in different directions, one of which went up the Boydton Road, where they found camps which had been deserted only a short time previous, and where they captured a few wagons of PEGRAM's division. In the meantime the Rebel cavalry stationed at Bellefield were ordered up to resist GREGG's advance, but they were not strong enough, and no fight took place. About one hundred barrels of whisky were destroyed in the vicinity, but no army stores were found at any place which our troops had reached. An order was found posted up at Dinwiddie Court-House, appealing to the people to come forward and give all the supplies they could possibly spare to the Government, as both men and horses were suffering very much. At night-fall GREGG returned to Rowanty Creek, and there bivouacked. The enemy had already destroyed the bridges over the creek, for the Fifth corps had crossed, and moved westerly on its appointed roads. Our pioneers reconstructed one of the bridges, and one cavalry brigade crossed and encamped on the other side.

Meanwhile, HUMPHREYS (leaving his First division to hold his entrenchments) had moved the Second and Third division of his Second corps, as has been said, down the Vaughan Road to where it crosses Hatcher's Run. MOTT's Third division had the advance, with DE TROBRIAND's brigade leading off.

SMYTH's division followed. Major Hess's battalion of the Third Pennsylvania cavalry covered DE TROBRIAND. The enemy's pickets were soon encountered and driven in, and the run reached. The enemy's entrenchments on the opposite bank were not very strongly manned, but the stream was so obstructed that the cavalry were driven back in an attempt to cross it. DE TROBRIAND immediately deployed his brigade in line of battle, and sent the Ninety-ninth Pennsylvania across in skirmish order, carrying the works at once, with comparatively slight loss, and securing the fording of the stream for the whole column. The cavalry now were able to cross, and, forming with DE TROBRIAND's brigade, handsomely drove back the enemy's small force with great rapidity and with small loss, sending him into the woods. The brigade then immediately took position on a hill beyond the ford, and briskly threw up a line of entrenchments, rendering its position secure. But the cavalry battalion, which had crossed a little south of the Vaughan Road, while driving in the enemy and reconnoitring on our left, met a small force in ambush which poured a sharp volley into them, killing and wounding quite a number of men and horses. A part of MOTT's division, however, came up to the support of the cavalry, and drove off the enemy.

Meanwhile, before the run was crossed, SMYTH, while half a mile distant from the stream, turned his division off abruptly to the right on a by-path leading northeasterly towards Armstrong's Mill and Ford. Advancing about three-fourths of a mile, SMYTH found the enemy in a strong position, GORDON's troops being accumulated there in heavy force, with pickets thrown out in front. SMYTH sent out the 19th Massachusetts as skirmishers, which, supported by the rest of its brigade, drove back the enemy's pickets, after a sharp encounter, to their breastworks. And now a line was formed, connecting the left of SMYTH with the right of MOTT. Earthworks of such character as was possible were thrown up, and preparations made to resist attack. There was a lull in the skirmishing and a pause in the advance, since DE TROBRIAND crossed the run in the middle of the forenoon. One account says: "General MEADE arrived and established the headquarters of the Army immediately on the battle line about 11 o'clock, and from that hour until about 4 no perceptible change was made in our dispositions. We appeared to be waiting for something. The story current was that it was for WARREN to come up and join MOTT's left; but however that may have been, beyond some desultory skirmishing along MOTT's and SMYTH's fronts, the hours passed on without events."

Until 2 o'clock there was some skirmishing between the enemy's pickets and ours. On that hour a heavy artillery fire commenced, and it began to be obvious that we should be attacked. About 4½ o'clock, MURPHEY's gallant Second brigade of SMYTH's division was assaulted with great spirit by the enemy. Yelling and cheering, and pressing rapidly through the difficult swamp, upon which our right partly rested, he rushed upon the rifle-pits which now covered SMYTH's right flank. Under cover of his furious artillery fire, he burst upon MURPHEY's brigade, but the latter, from behind their breastworks so ridled him with musketry that he was forced to fall back once more to the woods. A second and a third time he tried to carry our works and turn SMYTH's flank, and as often was repulsed. Until dark the fierce fighting continued, but at 7 o'clock it was over, and our lines remained secure.



Our loss in the Second corps was, probably, from 300 to 400. That of the enemy, as the attacking party was, probably, much greater than ours. General SMYTH was slightly wounded, and Captain McTAVISH, his Adjutant-General, killed. About 20 prisoners were taken by each party. A correspondent from the Second corps to one of the daily papers says:—"When the attack commenced there was a gap in our lines between the right of the Second brigade of the Second division and the Third brigade of the Third division. The enemy had observed this, and were hastening to take advantage of it. General HUMPHREYS had already ordered the Second brigade of the Third division, under Brevet Brigadier-General RAMSEY, to occupy the open space. It reached the position just in time to check the oncoming Rebels, and, after a fierce and prolonged struggle, succeeded in driving them back. Being without the protection of any works, the Eighth New Jersey, which bore the brunt of the attack at this point, suffered very severely."

#### TUESDAY'S BATTLE.

The cannonading in front of the Second corps lasted till after dark, but, in the main, the night passed quietly. Preparations were made to push forward once more. At 1 A. M. of Monday, the 6th, GREGG's cavalry moved from its camp on Rowanty Creek to the Boydton and Vaughan Roads, so as to be ready to cover the left of the Fifth corps. So deep was the mud that the roads had to be corduroyed in order to pass the artillery and wagons over them. About two miles from Hatcher's Run, the column halted, being on WARREN's left. During the night, our lines had been re-formed. The Fifth corps and Second corps were brought into connection, the latter being on the right, and GREGG covered the left of WARREN. The Sixth and Ninth corps were also so disposed as to render assistance to the Fifth and Second. In the morning the enemy was found to have abandoned his ground in front of the Second corps works, leaving some of his dead there.

About noon CRAWFORD was sent out by WARREN on the road to Dabney's Mill, to seize and hold that point. According to the Headquarters dispatch:

He advanced along the road leading from the Duncan Road toward the Boydton Plankroad, and at 2 o'clock had reached and driven the Rebels from Dabney's Mills, about two miles from Hatcher's Run, where they had erected breastworks, but were quickly driven from them. They, however, kept up a running fire from the woods, until about 5 o'clock, when they made a most determined stand along the line, evidently expecting to break through, and, if possible, cut off the Third division. The heaviest columns came up the Vaughn Road. At the same time an attack in front was made, and part of the division being out of ammunition, they commenced giving way, and in a short time the whole line fell back in considerable disorder, until they reached the breastworks erected by the Third division of the Second corps yesterday. There they were rallied, and the retreat was checked. The Third division of the Sixth corps had crossed the run just previous, and a part of them became somewhat demoralized; but they soon rallied, and aided in driving the enemy back. The wagons of ammunition were on their way to the division, when the stampede occurred, but had got fast in a kind of a swamp, and the tongue of one of them broke. When the men fell back the wagons were left outside the line, and although the Captain Wm. F. TRENBLY, Ordnance Officer of the division, did all in his power to save them, two wagons had to be abandoned, the men setting fire to the covers before they left. Shortly after an attack was made on the left of the Second corps, near the Armstrong House, on the Duncan Road, but the enemy were repulsed with loss.

In this affair our whole left and centre seems to have been engaged. GREGG was fighting vigorously on the left from behind hastily constructed breastworks, a brigade of GRIFFIN's division supporting him. General AYERS' division was sent to support CRAWFORD on his left, and, when advancing, was attacked by the Rebels in large force and temporarily driven back.

The enemy's force which succeeded in driving back our left and centre was composed of the divisions of PUGH and GORDON, of EARLY's corps. MAHONE's division of HILL's corps is said to have joined them, with a section of light artillery. WHEATON's division of the Sixth corps came up, but did not avail to turn the tide of battle. Our forces may congratulate themselves, in this movement, in having thus far lost few prisoners. Our entire losses in the Fifth corps on Monday, are said to be not over 500 men. The loss of the cavalry was very light. Amongst our wounded are Brigadier-Generals DAVIES, GREGG and MORROW, Colonels BANKHEAD, TILDEN and HERRING, and many officers of less rank. About 150 prisoners were captured by us.

It is difficult, since the movement still continues, to get perfectly accurate accounts of it, and we are com-

pelled in some instances to rely upon the Headquarters and other dispatches. But, at last accounts, our forces still held an advanced position, and the movement had not been frustrated. Before another week its result will be fully known.

#### THE CAMPAIGN IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

REINFORCED by troops from Tennessee, SHERMAN has as boldly plunged into South Carolina as he plunged into and through Georgia. The difficulties of his undertaking, the natural obstacles he has to encounter in the marshy country, the accumulation of forces against him already sent down from LEE's army, would fill all minds with the liveliest anxiety, were it not that the whole North has boundless confidence in SHERMAN. We have come to sympathize with his own soldiers, who are willing to follow him implicitly, asking him only to direct the way. General GROVER, with the Second division of the Nineteenth corps, is now in command of Savannah. General GILLMORE has gone to take command of the Department of the South. SHERMAN has thrown his whole Army into the interior of South Carolina, and threatens at the same time, by two distinct columns, Augusta, Branchville, and Charleston. The heavy rains which prevailed from the middle of January to the 24th, at length terminated, and the roads began to dry up. But near the coast the roads remained almost impassable, for the country for many miles was covered with water, rendering them useless for transportation. SHERMAN, however, has provided for all possible weather. And perhaps the movement of so large a force along the Savannah River was due to the effect of the weather on the marshy country. GEARY's division of WILLIAMS' Twentieth corps was the last to leave, as it was the first to enter, Savannah. It moved up towards Sister's Ferry on the 26th and 27th of January. The other two divisions of the corps, JACKSON's and WARD's, had already floundered through the marshes—now made doubly impracticable by the rain—on the South Carolina bank of the Savannah. They crossed the river from Savannah to the Union causeway, the course taken by HARDEE, and, after half a dozen miles of wading, got upon something worthy of being called land. But carrying trains and stores was out of the question. Accordingly, most of the wagons of these two divisions were sent up on the Georgia bank of the river, and JEFF. C. DAVIS's Fourteenth corps followed with its trains; moving towards Sister's Ferry. GEARY brought up the rear, as we have said.

Now, therefore, we find the whole original "left wing" of SLOCUM once more brought together and moving up the Savannah. It still occupies its original position of left with regard to HOWARD's right wing, whose manœuvres we will presently trace. Sister's Ferry would be a very convenient temporary base for SLOCUM's operations, and supplies have been rapidly accumulated at that point. The freshet in the Savannah must have raised the river several feet, and it would be an easy matter to convey fifteen or thirty days' supplies thither by means of the numerous light transports now at Savannah.

WILLIAMS reached Purceysburgh, S. C., about the 23d of January, without finding any troops whatever to oppose him. Seven days later, on the 30th, DAVIS and GEARY reached Sister's Ferry, after a like experience. Their march of fifty miles was, however, like that of WILLIAMS, over difficult roads. For several miles from the river, the banks on either side were absolutely under water. Forage on the Georgia side was found in great abundance, but poultry, sweet potatoes, hogs, and beef were rather less plentiful than our gourmand boys who march with SHERMAN had been accustomed to find them. The troops behaved well, treating the people kindly, and not straggling from the ranks.

Soon after arriving at Purceysburgh, General WILLIAMS sent out Colonel DUSTAN, of the Second brigade, Third division, Twentieth corps, to reconnoitre towards Sister's Ferry. About 200 cavalymen were found near Bradham's, ten miles out, and these were quickly dispersed. The corps then awaited quietly the arrival of DAVIS and GEARY. The latter, on coming up to Sister's Ferry, made immediate preparations to pontoon the river. And, meanwhile, the double-ender *Pontiac* patrolled the river on the lookout for the two gunboats which escaped from Savannah to Augusta. Of these, the *Sampson* is a substantial new boat, carrying two guns, and commanded

by Lieutenant CAINES; the other, the *Macon*, was constructed for a gunboat, but is a steam propeller, has a larger crew than the *Sampson*, is commanded by Lieutenant J. S. BERNARD, and carries six heavy guns. Both boats have been in engagements.

The approach to the river from Sister's Ferry is over a steep bank, requiring some manœuvring to get the trains down. On the banks of the river, the flood prevailed to such an extent as to preclude the immediate laying of pontoons. They were got down, however, at the earliest possible moment, the troops and trains crossed, and the whole of SLOCUM's corps was united at Robertsville, on the South Carolina side. Then commenced a movement directly against the railroad which connects Branchville and Augusta. Both places were at once threatened by the line of SLOCUM's march. The enemy in great haste summoned BEAUREGARD from Charleston to Augusta, where D. H. HILL was already in command, with many troops. Branchville was reinforced, and works thrown up to render it additionally secure. On the 1st of February SLOCUM advanced across Whippy Swamp, which lies about equidistant from Branchville and Pocotaligo, or, about 30 miles southwest of the former and northwest of the latter. McBride's Bridge was captured on the same day, and the enemy's cavalry was driven in a few miles west of Braxton Bridge. At this latter point the enemy had a strong force posted, and, at latest accounts, skirmishing was going on in that neighborhood. As we read the news, therefore, SLOCUM has already accomplished a considerable part of his difficult marching, has crossed the Coosawhatchie and the swamps which line both its banks, has crossed also the left branch of the Combahee, has penetrated the Whippy Swamp, successfully crossed the Big Salkehatchie, and now essays to cross the Little Salkehatchie and the easterly branches of the Combahee. These passed, the Edisto lies in SLOCUM's line of march.

While there is no possible doubt that our troops are moving on Branchville, it is also clear that a detachment of KILPATRICK's cavalry is sweeping on the road to Augusta, and threatening the latter city. We conjecture they will be found to have cut the railroad between Augusta and Branchville, and perhaps to have visited the town of Barnwell.

With regard to the operation of HOWARD's wing we are a little more in the dark. But on the 31st ult. a Charleston dispatch to Richmond said: "A heavy force of infantry, artillery and cavalry is reported encamped near the junction of the Salkehatchie and the old Union road. This force is believed to consist of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Army corps. Yesterday morning the enemy advanced in considerable force of infantry and artillery, from White's Point, and drove in our skirmish line three miles, to King's Creek. Our infantry afterward advanced, and drove the enemy back to White's Point, reestablishing our picket line. Since then all has been quiet on the Combahee at that point. The enemy made a demonstration on our position defending the pontoon bridge over the Salkehatchie, but without result. It is reported that they burned McPherson's ville last night. This village is five miles west of Pocotaligo." But now HOWARD seems to have been heard from at Adam's Run, on the Edisto, about 20 miles west of Charleston, where the enemy has a strong outlying force, probably covering Jacksonboro, the point where the Savannah Railroad crosses the Edisto. The enemy sends a dispatch averring that, on February 1st, our forces came up in barges to Young's Island, drove in his pickets, fired some buildings on the plantations, and then began to retire; and that, on the day after, three steamers appeared off White's Point, and a landing was threatened. The news closes at a provokingly interesting point, like the weekly installment of a popular novel in the newspapers. But with it, such as it is, we must season our admiration.

THE remains of the gallant Lieutenant B. H. Porter, U. S. N., who was killed while leading his men at the assault on Fort Fisher, were interred on Tuesday of last week, at Skeneateles, with military honors. The Syracuse Citizens' corps (company A), Fifty-first regiment, attended the funeral.

THE gift of fifty-one thousand dollars in government bonds to Vice-Admiral Farragut by the citizens of New York has had a sequel in the transmission to him of the letter of presentation, enclosed in "a beautiful blue morocco case, lined with white and red satin, thus combining the loyal colors."



## THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER.

No task is more difficult, either for an individual or a nation, than to cut loose from the deep-rooted prejudices of early education; for nations have their school time no less than individuals. National ideas can be traced back as clearly to the races from which the nation has sprung, to the blood which has run in its veins for centuries, to the fundamental opinions which have characterized that nation or those races in all their onward progress, as to the temporary or proximate causes to which alone we are accustomed, in ordinary speculations, to attribute them. In no point is this truth more evident than in the general ideas which prevail amongst our people, and which are frequently uttered by our press, with regard to the American soldier. It has become a habit with both Southern and Northern public journals to speculate upon the possibilities of peace, and to anticipate that with it there will come a very great practical difficulty in disposing of our soldiers. It is generally suggested that it will be desirable, perhaps absolutely necessary, to embroil ourselves with some foreign power, either with England, to attack Canada, or more probably with France, to carry out the Monroe doctrine by driving MAXIMILIAN from his throne, and so preventing the cession of Sonora or any other provinces on this continent to a European power. A foreign war, in which the soldiers now contending for victory in every Southern State might fight side by side in a common cause, would, it is supposed, not only have the effect of obliterating the recollections of past feuds, by the interposition of one more recent, and by substituting for the hatred of one another the hatred of a common foe, but would find the only fitting use and the only safe employment for all those adventurous spirits whose love of excitement has been so stimulated by war, whose natural recklessness has been assiduously cultivated, and in whom the exigencies of service have originated and developed such ideas respecting the rights and properties of others that they would no longer be safe inhabitants of a peaceable, free country. Of course this doctrine is not put forward in all its naked deformity, nor do the defenders of it state their desire to carry it to its logical conclusion by continuing to make war upon some foreign power until all these unquiet spirits have found their resting place in a soldier's grave; but the idea which secretly prevails has not been over stated.

Even those who have friends, relatives, perhaps fathers and brothers, risking their lives for the great cause of united free America, seem to look upon their own friends as the exception, and have a latent idea that a soldier's life is full of special temptations, of unusually demoralizing tendencies, and that the soldiers of its Armies are in some sort not so well behaved, not so trustworthy in ordinary life as the quiet citizens of the Republic. This idea is solely and purely an Anglo-Saxon inheritance, a fallacy which we have brought with us from England, an idea inbred in our natures, and one, therefore, which we cling to, in spite of its groundlessness, and its utter inapplicability to the circumstances under which our noble Army has been raised, officered and disciplined.

When a Norman army invaded England and obtained possession of its government, it was natural that the mass of the people should look with hatred and distrust upon their conquerors and the instrument by which they enforced their tyranny. From that day to this, the English army has consisted of a class distinct from the great bulk of the people. It is to-day officered almost, if not entirely, from the privileged classes. The soldier, on the other hand, is taken from the very dregs of the population, and, as a consequence, the army is held together by iron discipline. Such an army is by its organization quite removed from the sympathies and antagonistic to the feelings of the great middle classes, who form the bulk of the people of England, who are the mainstay of its liberty and the great fountain of its commercial prosperity. It is therefore just such an army as could be most efficiently used as a political weapon, should opportunity occur. It would be unnecessary to trace the relation of the English army to the English people through the intervening pages of their history from the Norman Conquest to the present day. Substantially, the relation above described is that which they have held towards one another. An army of the dimensions of ours, organized like that of England, and like that officered, would indeed be dangerous to our freedom if kept together after the end of the war, and yet

hardly less dangerous if disbanded. In the one case, if it did not become the instrument by which some ambitious man would build a despotism on the ruined liberties of the people, it might be because the magnitude of the instrument demanded a giant hand to wield it, and no giant hand was there. On the other hand, the letting loose upon society of a vast untutored brute force, untrained for aught save war, accustomed to respect and obey a class with whom it was impossible for them to come in contact except as servants, and having neither political, social, nor commercial instincts in common with the mass of the people around, could only be a great disturbing element, capable of little but evil.

Thrice in the history of the Anglo-Saxon people, an army has been organized on very different principles from those already described. Once, the great middle classes rose in their strength, and, under CROMWELL, hurled a despotic king from that throne which he or his counsellors endeavored to convert into an altar on which all the religious and civil liberties of his people were to be sacrificed.

Again, a free people rose under WASHINGTON, and from the colonies of America made this great Nation the pillar and champion of freedom. A third time, to complete the work left undone by the Fathers of the country, to maintain inviolate the Constitution and the Union entrusted to our keeping—the people of America have arisen with extraordinary unanimity. The standing armies of Europe present no analogies to these three great Anglo-Saxon armies of liberty, and more especially to ours of to-day. They are levied for destruction; this to preserve and construct. They are armies of kings, this an army of the people. They, officered by privileged classes, by years of severe training, succeed in converting a class held by the exigencies of poverty in a position only less degrading than that of the slave in that it recognizes their freedom, into machine soldiers, capable of great daring and great endurance, but entirely dependent upon their leaders for guidance. The American Army sprang at once, almost ready made, from counting-house, store and workshop—each individual brought the keen intelligence which he had hitherto devoted to his private business, to learning that new profession to which patriotism summoned him. In days he accomplished the work of months. In a few months he became a veteran equal to the trained soldiers possessing years of experience. In artillery, that most difficult of arms, a volunteer field force was organized which, in a single year, could not have been surpassed, hardly perhaps equalled, by any regular artillery holding the field on long lines of communication. A race unaccustomed to the saddle have raised a cavalry which, though often beaten at the commencement of the war, never lost its confidence, and was never discouraged, and has ended by becoming the type upon which its antagonists are trying to organize a force able to withstand it. A volunteer engineer corps has constructed bridges over larger rivers and more rapid streams than have ever been bridged by an army before; have made surveys of the most elaborate and accurate description, stretching over a vast extent of country; have thrown up works exhibiting a capacity of resistance equal to the choicest productions of the European schools. A volunteer infantry has shown unequalled endurance under hardship, unflinching courage under defeat, brilliant perseverance under difficulties—qualities supposed to be the peculiar virtues of the veteran. It has achieved victories over men of the same race, led by the ablest officers the Southern aristocracy could produce, educated at the expense of the Union they betrayed. It has assaulted works deemed impregnable by good judges, made marches without parallel, campaigned over snow-clad mountains as difficult of access as the Alps or the Appennines, over rivers larger than any that Europe contains—and it has accomplished all this under the inspiration of pure patriotism, and the exalted love of freedom. Above all, it has developed generals whose previous experience was at the outside limited to commanding a company of infantry or cavalry against an Indian tribe; a few of whom, nevertheless, whether we consider their disposition of troops in action, their handling of enormous bodies of men, their strategical manœuvres, through campaigns involving advances of hundreds of miles; the personal influence they exert upon their men, or the brilliant and sound originality they have shown in some of their manœuvres, are without equal in

modern days—NAPOLEON himself alone excepted.

When the armies of CROMWELL and WASHINGTON laid down the sabres they had taken up for popular liberty, and returned each man to his plough, his workshop, his store, history has recorded that they were remarkable for their valuable qualities as citizens; honest, upright, industrious, with minds disciplined by the career they had gone through, by the dangers they had met, the difficulties they had overcome, the death they had so often freely faced. They became the ornaments of the countries they had fought for, the noble expounders of the liberty they had won. So will the American soldier of to-day; the task he has imposed upon himself once accomplished, the Union preserved, the Constitution respected, liberty secured, returning to his daily path in life a better citizen than he left it.

## PARROTT GUNS.

In connection with the communication on Parrott Guns, signed "Excelsior," which is published elsewhere in this issue, it may be well to make a few remarks by way of comment.

It is impossible, in a country where so many intelligent mechanics have turned their attention to the construction of large guns, that any steps should be taken in any one direction without more or less seriously injuring the interests of those who are experimenting in a different direction. By the orders of Commodore WISE to the Committee, it is true, the whole subject of iron ordnance of large calibres and of modes of rifling was opened to them. It is equally true that they did not venture upon any opinion on these subjects, and that if they had they would merely have opened the door for a controversy infinitely more extended, more bitter and more useless than that which their evident partiality for the Parrott gun has called forth. We shall always be glad to receive and publish dispassionate articles on either side of this interesting controversy. Our object is to lay before the Army and Navy public all the facts that can be obtained; and, as being neither inventors, nor the special friends of any particular inventors, to sum up from time to time the various facts elicited and the principles which these facts seem to prove.

The article of last week has been as much found fault with by the Parrott men as by the wrought-iron gun men; we think by both, partly because we have lent ourselves to the prejudices and interested views of neither party, and partly because our objects and duties in this matter are not understood.

The country is in possession of a very large number of Parrott guns of all calibres. Respecting the smaller calibres there can be no question. It is very easy to make a 30-pounder rifle. As to larger calibres, the question is very different, and complete success has not crowned the efforts of any inventor of the present day. If it can be shown that the Parrott guns in the service will, with certain precautions in the manufacture of shells and in their use, do an amount of work commensurate with their cost, it is a great object accomplished, both as regards economy and time, for the places of these guns could not at once be supplied. We objected to the experiments of the Committee because we know that the results obtained from one gun under each class of experiment will not be deemed conclusive by any thinking man in the Navy, and will not, if successful, succeed in establishing the confidence in Parrott guns, which is the chief object of the experiments suggested by the Committee. Two guns of each class would be better; three better still; but we supposed two would hit the medium between unnecessary expense on the one hand and failing to accomplish the desired object on the other. Again, if by Rodman casting and GILMORE'S improved band the Parrott gun can in the future be so improved that it becomes a safe gun for say 1,500 rounds, another advantage is gained, inasmuch as this gun costs only 15 to 17 cents a pound, whereas the cheapest wrought-iron gun costs about 25 cents, and the Ames gun is estimated as high as 90 cents a pound. In heavy bombardments or prolonged sieges a great number of rounds are fired in a short space of time from a gun, but 1,500 rounds is, on an average of even war time, three years life for a gun. And any wrought-iron gun which, at double the cost of the Parrott gun, is able to endure 3,000 rounds, costs the country the interest on half its cost for three years. It will thus be seen that, provided the Parrott gun can be made a safe gun for a definite amount of work, any gun



costing much more than this must be able to show a power of endurance more than proportionately greater.

The orders of our Navy Department are just as precise on the necessity of recording the history of a cast-iron gun as are those of the English army and navy, but there is abundance of proof in the Report itself that these instructions are very imperfectly carried out. There may be very good reasons for this in the fact of the number of young officers in the service, and of officers unaccustomed to the very necessary accuracy demanded by the Ordnance Bureau on this subject; but the facts remain the same. In the same way, the instructions for examining guns when under proof, which we gave in full in the last week's article for the benefit of our readers who are not acquainted with ordnance duty, and which are the standing orders of all services on this subject, were very imperfectly carried out in the proof of the gun, in the bore of which a shell burst on the second round, but which does not appear to have been examined with the searcher until the tenth.

#### SHOULD THERE BE A DEPARTMENT OF FREEDMEN?

CONGRESS has before it a bill creating a "Department of Freedmen and abandoned lands," which is the result of a compromise between the two Houses, one of which desired last session to give the control of the Freedmen's affairs in charge of the Treasury Department, while the other wished to confide them to the War Department.

It appears to us that the new bill has all the vices and none of the virtues of a compromise. It creates an independent Department, to look over and manage the interests of the Freedmen and the abandoned plantations—a Department, not represented of course in the cabinet, but superintended by a commissioner, a civil officer, who is to work by means of subordinates, local commissioners. We shall say nothing on the political bearings of this arrangement, which appear to keep united the plantations and the negroes. But we may with propriety speak of it from the military stand-point.

The commissioner, who is to have a salary of four thousand per year, is to appoint a clerk, at two thousand per year, who in his absence acts for him. He is also to "create districts of Freedmen and abandoned lands within the Rebel States, not to exceed two in each State," and these districts are to be under the supervision of assistant commissioners, at twenty-five hundred per annum, appointed by the PRESIDENT, who are in turn to appoint clerks and local superintendents, at a salary of fifteen hundred per annum, and not more than four to each district.

The commissioner is to have the general superintendence of Freedmen in all the districts, and to "watch over the execution of all laws, proclamations, and military order of emancipation, or in any way concerning Freedmen." He is also to "establish regulations from time to time, and cause them to be enforced, for their needful and judicious treatment;" and, in brief, he and his assistants are to see that the Freedmen are duly protected in all their rights; to assign to them such portions of the abandoned plantations as they may be able to cultivate, on rent or lease; and to advise, aid, and in various ways befriend the Freedmen, acting as arbitrators in their disputes, and as friends in court, as well as to find them employment.

All this they are to do, in a region occupied and held against the enemy by the military forces; a region in which martial law is necessarily the only law, and in which no authority is respected which has not the bayonet at its back. A civilian within military lines is either the most helpless of creatures, or he is the supreme ruler. There can be no medium. The assistant commissioners, superintendents and clerks, therefore, have no power to move, until they have first authority to require the military power to assist them; and this authority the bill of course gives them in section ten, which charges the PRESIDENT "with furnishing the military and other support needful to carry the act into effect."

But this seems to us an unhappy interference with the military arm; a perpetuation of an evil which has already too long existed in various ways, and has done the Freedmen, with the best intention, more harm than good. An assistant commissioner may require a general commanding a department, to obey his instructions, in regard to protection for persons and property, and may interfere, and, indeed, as charged with a special and unmilitary duty, is almost sure to interfere with and embarrass military operations. Out of this much mischief and injurious bickering has already arisen and must continue to arise.

To carry on war effectually, the military arm requires to have the fullest authority over the population of the district which is the theatre of war. The negroes who have for the last two years, in the Southwest, been more or less

the unhappy prey of Northern cotton speculators, might have been, and we believe would have been, but for such often well-intentioned interference, usefully and properly employed, at points of some military strength, in raising food for themselves and the troops. Several of our generals have at different times attempted to form negro colonies of a semi-military character, which would have become presently gathering places for negro refugees; but these places, the creations of a military mind, have been interrupted by civil interference.

General SHERMAN's recent order, about the Sea Islands and the adjoining rice coast, forms another such military colony. The region selected is easily defensible; it offers a safe refuge for runaway slaves; and, placed under an inspector, a military officer, with supreme authority, and accountable for correct management, and the strict observance of the rules laid down for his guidance, it appears to us that this is the best disposition which can be made of the Freedmen, both for their own welfare, their economical management, and the advantage of the country.

The War Department is entirely competent to this work. Congress may, if it likes, and ought, perhaps, to lay down some general rules for it; but the War Department, through the Generals commanding departments, can, as it appears to us, provide, in the most satisfactory manner, for all the interests concerned; and General SHERMAN has shown, in his recent order, that the way to do this is not difficult, and the method need not be cumbersome. One good object he at least effects: he banishes from amongst the blacks all white men not employed as subordinate agents of the General or other officer who acts as inspector. He does away, therefore, with the hordes of speculators upon the labor of the poor Freedmen, of whom we have seen in official reports some disgraceful accounts.

But the War Department and the generals act of course only while the war lasts? Of course; and when peace is restored, the Department of Freedmen would have no longer any duties to perform either, for then the local State governments resume their functions, and the General Government can interfere between citizens in the States only through its courts. Therefore, so far as we can see, the proposed Department would only become useful at the very moment when it went out of existence.

It is, we believe, highly necessary, not merely for the advantage of the Freedmen, but for the general good, that the Government should adopt some fixed policy with regard to them. But whatever that policy may be, the military arm must carry it into effect, and it can be best done and will be most cheaply and effectually done, through the War Department, and by means of its officers. To us it seems that to collect the Freedmen in colonies, at points so naturally strong as to be easily defended by the settlers against the incursions of guerrillas, and at the same time adapted to provide support for the people, is the most sensible plan, and such a plan can be thoroughly carried out only by military men familiar with the country, and impressed with the importance, as every commanding officer is, of relieving himself and his forces, as much as possible, from the duty of protecting a long line and wide district, from the attacks of the guerrillas.

#### THE REBEL CAVALRY.

It is a little singular that the very arm in which the Southern soldiers particularly prided themselves at the opening of the war, is that in which they have been found most woefully deficient, and the one, too, in which they are forced to take lessons from their once-despised opponents. In artillery the South knew itself to be our inferior—even if for no other reason, from its lack of material, and of mechanical ingenuity and appliances. In infantry, the question of superiority remains to be tested. But in cavalry, it entertained no doubt of sweeping Yankee horsemen from any battle-field. We admitted this superiority. "The Southerner," we urged in justification, "was born on a horse." We accounted for the defeat at Manassas by the charge of the "Black Horse cavalry;" and the wonderful deeds attributed to that almost apocryphal band by us even outrun those invented by the prolific Southern imagination. And, indeed, the Southern cavalry was at first superior to ours. It has produced many great names—FORREST, MORGAN, HAMPTON, LEE, and the rest, though we doubt if any cavalry name is greater in the war than that of JOHN BUFORD, or of SHERIDAN.

After a while, the tide began to turn. Our cavalry could withstand the enemy's. At length, in the Shenandoah Valley, the enemy's horsemen were sadly beaten; and EARLY attributed a chief part of his disaster there to the want of discipline and soldierly character in his cavalry. General LEE, on assuming command as Generalissimo, has applied himself to bring up his cavalry arm once more to efficiency. He is determined to make up some of the equipments it lacks, that no complaint need be made on that score; and his order is so interesting and suggestive, that we will append it entire:

#### HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, JANUARY 25, 1865.

To arm and equip an additional force of cavalry, there is need of carbines, revolvers, pistols, saddles, and other accoutrements of mounted men. Arms and equipments of the kind desired are believed to be held by citizens in sufficient numbers to supply our wants. Many keep them as trophies, and some with the expectation of using them in their own defence. But it should be remembered that arms are now required for use, and that they cannot be made so effectual for the defence of the country in any way as in the hands of organized troops. They are needed to enable our cavalry to cope with the well-armed and equipped cavalry of the enemy, not only in the general service, but in resisting those predatory expeditions which have inflicted so much loss upon the people of the interior. To the patriotic I need make no other appeal than the wants of the service; but I beg to remind those who are reluctant to part with the arms and equipments in their possession that, by keeping them, they diminish the ability of the army to defend their property, without themselves receiving any benefit from them. I therefore urge all persons not in the service to deliver promptly to some of the officers designated below such arms and equipments (especially those suitable for cavalry) as they may have, and to report to those officers the names of such persons as neglect to surrender those in their possession. Every citizen who prevents a carbine or pistol from remaining unused will render a service to his country. Those who think to retain arms for their own defence should remember that if the army cannot protect them, the arms will be of little use. While no valid title can be acquired to public arms and equipments except from the government, it is reported that many persons have ignorantly purchased them from private parties. A fair compensation will therefore be made to all who deliver such arms and equipments to any ordnance officers, officer commanding at a post, officers and agents of the quartermaster and commissary departments, at any station, or officers in the enrolling service, or connected with the Nitre and Mining Bureau. All these officers are requested, and those connected with this army are directed to receive and receipt for all arms and equipments, whatever their condition, and forward the same, with a duplicate receipt, to the Ordnance Department at Richmond, and report their proceedings to these headquarters. The person holding the receipt will be compensated upon presenting it to the Ordnance Bureau. While it is hoped that no one will disregard this approval, all officers connected with the army are required, and all others are requested to take possession of any public arms and equipments they may find in the hands of persons unwilling to surrender them to the service of the country, and to give receipts therefor. A reasonable allowance for their expenses and trouble will be made to such patriotic citizens as will collect and deliver to any of the officers above designated such arms and equipments as they may find in the hands of persons not in the service, or who will report the same to those officers. A prompt compliance with this call will greatly promote the efficiency and strength of the army, particularly of the cavalry, and render it better able to protect the homes and property of the people from outrage.

R. E. LEE, General.

By direction of the War Department, the military division of West Mississippi, as originally constituted, has been broken up. The Department of Missouri, Arkansas, together with the Department of Kansas, will in future be consolidated into one grand division, designated "The Military Division of the Missouri," Major-General JOHN POPE commanding. Major-General E. R. S. CARY, will continue in command of the military division of West Mississippi, henceforth embracing the Department of the Gulf, including the State of Texas and the Department of Mississippi. His jurisdiction will extend to all the territory bordering the Gulf of Mexico and region tributary thereto. The Department of Kansas and Missouri will constitute a small department, Major-General G. M. DODGE commanding. Major-General S. R. CURTIS will relieve Major-General POPE in command of the Department of the Northwest. Major-General J. J. REYNOLDS will continue in command of the Department of Arkansas. Major-General JOHN POPE, the commander of the new military division, is at St. Louis, where he will receive instructions in full from Washington, relating to the extent of his enlarged duties. The requirements of his command will be mainly administrative, together with military operations against the Indians and guerrillas.

ADVICES from Mr. WEBB, United States Minister at Rio received at the State Department, bring the gratifying intelligence that the Government of Brazil has issued a decree excluding the pirate *Shenandoah* from the ports of that empire. At the date of these advices Mr. SEWARD's answer in the case of the *Florida* had not been received at Rio.

A REPORT has been made, by an efficient and experienced engineer, upon the insecurity of the War and Navy Departments for the preservation of the public records from fire. The erection of fire-proof granite buildings for the use of these Departments is recommended.

WASHINGTON telegrams report that it has been determined to commence immediately the construction of a Government arsenal at Rock Island. It will be one of the largest in the world. Its estimated cost will be one and a half millions of dollars.

CAPTAIN James R. Gilmore, A. Q. M., having reported to headquarters, Department of the South, in accordance with instructions from the War Department, is hereby announced as Superintendent of Military Telegraphs in that department.



## MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

CONGRESS has given a good share of attention this week to the Army and Navy. The votes of the Electoral College for President and Vice-President were opened and counted on Saturday. 233 votes were cast, 212 of which were for ABRAHAM LINCOLN for President, and the same number for ANDREW JOHNSON for Vice-President. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN and GEORGE H. PENDLETON, received 21 for President and Vice-President respectively. The votes from the States in Rebellion were excluded from the count. The Enrollment bill, reported by the Military Committee, has been considered at length by the Senate, and passed with several amendments. The bill, as it passed the Senate, provides that any person liable to be drafted, may be accepted as a substitute for a drafted person in the same town, city or ward; that naval substitutes must be presented in person to the Board of Enrollment, by which the principal is enrolled and accepted by said Board; that any person who shall knowingly enlist, or cause to be enlisted, any person, deserter, or convict, or person charged with crime, or who shall defraud any volunteer or substitute of his bounty, shall, on conviction by a civil court, be fined or imprisoned or both; that officers knowingly mustering in such persons, shall be dishonorably dismissed; that each district shall be liable for the desertion of the men enlisted on its quota; that deserters and persons leaving the United States to escape the draft, shall be deprived of citizenship.

The Report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War on the Petersburg mine affair, in June last, was received, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The Military Committee reported a bill entitled "An act for the benefit of Army Officers in the field." It provides that from and after the 1st of March, 1865, and during the continuance of the present Rebellion, the commutation price of officers' subsistence shall be fifty cents per ration; provided that said increase shall not apply to the commutation price of the rations of any officer above the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General or any officer entitled to commutation for fuel or quarters. It relieves all Army officers from the payment of the income tax, and grants to all officers and volunteers who shall continue in the military service to the close of the war, upon being mustered out of the service, three months' pay. This latter provision shall not apply to officers not on duty, nor to officers entitled to commutation for fuel and quarters. No action was taken on the bill.

The Secretary of War, in answer to a resolution of the House, enclosed a statement of the Provost-Marshal General that he knew of no instance where Boards of Enrollment have exempted preachers of the Gospel belonging to churches whose religious tenets do not bring them within the scope of the act of February last for enrolling and calling out the national forces; nor does he know of any privileges having been granted to the preachers of any denomination of professing Christians which have been denied to others. A petition was presented, headed by HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, asking that inferior offices in the gift of the Government be filled by persons honorably discharged from the Army and Navy of the United States.

The House of Representatives has passed the Fortification and Army and Naval Appropriation bills, and the Illinois and Michigan Ship Canal bill. The Fortification bill appropriates about five millions; among other sums for Fort Wayne, near Detroit; Fort Porter, at Buffalo; Fort Niagara, near Youngstown, and Forts Ontario, Montgomery, Knox, Popham, Preble, Scamell, Georges Constitution, McClary, Winthrop, Independence, Warren, Adams, Hale, Schuyler, Willett's Point, Hamilton, Tompkins, Mifflin, Washington, Monroe, Clinch, Taylor and Jefferson; also for the sea wall of Great Brewster's Island, the sea walls on Deer and Lovell's Islands; for a permanent fort at New Bedford; for the forts at Sandy Hook, on Ship Island, at Fort Point in California, on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, and for additional defences at San Francisco, and for the defences of Washington, half a million.

The Army Appropriation bill appropriates about five hundred millions of dollars.

The Ship Canal is proposed as a military work to facilitate the defence of the northern frontier, and enable gunboats and vessels-of-war to pass from the Mississippi to Lake Michigan, and to promote the commerce between the different States and foreign nations. The President is empowered to deepen and enlarge the Illinois and Michigan Canal, supply the same with water from Lake Michigan, and improve the navigation of the Illinois and Des Moines Rivers. He is authorized to contract with the State of Illinois, or with any company incorporated for that purpose, to construct the works, in aid of which five millions in bonds of the United States, payable twenty years from their date, bearing six per centum interest, will be issued. Commissioners are also to be appointed to survey the upper and lower Des Moines rapids of the Mississippi, with the view of constructing a canal around the same, the Government to assist by its credit to the extent of two millions of dollars.

The amendment to the Naval Appropriation bill providing for a Board of Admiralty was rejected after a lengthened debate, for and against the amendment, by Mr. WINTER DAVIS, of Maryland, and Mr. ALEX. RICE, of Massachusetts. Mr. DAVIS, in his remarks, said that the changes and increase of our Navy had, during the last four years, been made under the auspices of the Secretary of the Navy and his irresponsible Assistant Secretary, who was the real and actual Secretary of the Navy. The result was we were taught to believe we were a great naval Power. While it was officially stated we had six hundred and seventy-one

vessels, and two thousand three hundred and eighty-five guns, he maintained that in fact we had only one hundred and thirty-two vessels and one thousand and sixty-nine guns to efficiently engage with any foreign naval Power if war were declared to-morrow. He condemned the double-enders, whose machinery was all exposed, and spoke of the uselessness of other vessels in a contest with a first-class Power. In proposing a Board of Admiralty he adhered to the idea of the unity of the Executive, surrounded by responsible advisers, without whose recommendation and knowledge nothing could be done; and this Board he proposed should be headed by Vice Admiral FARRAGUT. Had such a Board been heretofore in existence we should have been saved from the mortification of repeated failures. The contest between the *Monitor* and *Merrimac* was a drawn battle; nobody was whipped; and yet, without consulting naval officers and obtaining the opinion of professional men, the Department, taking the model of the *Monitor*—a cheese box with two guns—had expended thirteen millions of dollars on that type of vessel. The Department had smoothed over its failure in contracts, and had wasted the public money in its extravagant experiments.

Mr. RICE said the gentleman was most unfortunate in the amendment he had submitted to this bill, which was nothing more nor less than that this Congress and the Navy Department should throw away all the teachings of experience at home and abroad, and, by taking a retrograde step, place our naval affairs where they were a century ago. The Committee on Naval Affairs several days ago asked leave to submit and have printed their report, covering a mass of documentary evidence on the subject referred to by the gentleman; but the House refused the request. The Committee had had seventy sittings, and had examined all the facts and statistics with a view to separating the wheat from the chaff, and taking the true from the absolutely false. He quoted British authorities to show that such a board in England was unpopular, irresponsible, uncertain and inefficient to provide for all the exigencies of war. Speakers in Parliament and articles in magazines had condemned it as an utter failure. In France a better system was followed, founded on individual responsibility. In our naval organization each chief of bureau was directly responsible to the head of the department, who was not hampered by their divided action. The system proposed by the gentleman had been tried here over and over again, and had been cast aside because it had proved inefficient, irresponsible and uncertain. The gentleman had a double purpose; he discussed but for a short time his proposition, while he had devoted at least an hour in decanting on the faults and failures of the Navy Department. It was scarcely necessary to remind the House that when the Rebellion broke out the insurgents had possession of the country from the Chesapeake to the Rio Grande; the Rebels took two of the five navy yards, one of them—the one at Norfolk—the most important of all, at which they captured some ships, besides over two thousand pieces of heavy ordnance. At that time the entire Navy consisted of forty-six vessels, one-half of them out of commission; only twenty-three were left for service, nearly all of which were on squadron service abroad; so that only four were available for home service. The Secretary of the Navy pressed by the necessity of the case, had gathered the most efficient vessels to meet the instant requirements of the war. Starting with four vessels only, the number was increased in nine months to two hundred and twenty-six; the next year to between three and four hundred; the year following to five hundred and eighty, and at the end of the fourth year to six hundred and seventy-one. The vessels built were not built on one plan, of one size, or for one use, as the gentleman had stated, but for different branches of the service. Commissions had been summoned from time to time, and other means taken to ascertain the best way of capturing certain points or of constructing vessels and machinery. The history of the world did not show such a gigantic performance in constructing a Navy as was exhibited in this country. Reforms had been effected in ships and ordnance, and by the embodiment of an American idea in building *Monitor* vessels of a different form from those found in any other part of the globe, we had achieved the most brilliant victories of the Navy. He replied at length to Mr. DAVIS' strictures on the Navy.

The House concurred in the amendment providing for one additional midshipman to the Naval Academy from each Congressional District. A bill was passed unanimously providing for the payment to the surviving Revolutionary soldiers of a gratuity of three hundred dollars in addition to their present pension of one hundred dollars a year.

On motion of Mr. GARFIELD, a resolution was passed, instructing the Committee on the District of Columbia to inquire whether any regulation exists in the District which forbids persons from leaving Washington without a pass; and if so, to report to the House under what authority the regulation is made and enforced, and what legislation is necessary to secure justice to all loyal persons without regard to color at the national capital. Also, a resolution instructing the Committee on the Conduct of the War to examine into the military campaigns of General ROSECRANS from the beginning of his service in Western Virginia to the conclusion of the recent campaign in Missouri.

We were very sure that the opinions we expressed last week in regard to the politicians of the war would find ready acceptance amongst those who are fighting out the contest. The following letter is a sample of the responses to the article:

SIR:—The article in your issue of the 4th, wherein you allude to the efforts of politicians to "take position," that benefits to their relations with party may accrue, is worthy to be repeated, and followed up by a series of searching examinations for the use of the dear public at large. These political mountebanks, North and South, produced this terrible war, and they have not brains enough to make a sensible settlement of our differences. Those who were most potent in stirring up the passions of our people, now run about crying out for peace in the most lusty way. They howl for peace on any terms. Unfortunate men! on whose garments the blood of the Nation has been lavishly spattered. No efforts of theirs will ever wipe out the deep injury done

to their country. Abolition of slavery will not save them from the execration of their fellows. Peace to them will become life-long war. The war has been doing good work, is doing work yet, that will have happy effects in time to come. Mere partisans or party press have lost their influence. The people have weighed them, and found them wanting. Peace will bring declining lists of subscribers, and pot-house political traders will find their occupation gone.

UNION.

The following is an incomplete list of the casualties amongst officers during the late movement on Hatcher's Run:—

KILLED.—Lieut. L. Bristol, 47th New York; Lieut. Jas. McGinley, 69th Pennsylvania; Lieut. Franklin Bartlett, 14th Connecticut; Lieut. Wm. Tibbits, 19th Massachusetts.

WOUNDED.—Capt. Nathan Bayne, 118th Pennsylvania, face; Lieut. J. A. Bottalier, A, 32d Massachusetts, scalp; Lieut. M. L. Bull, C, 6th Wisconsin, foot; Col. J. P. Bankhead, Inspector-General 5th corps, hand; Lieut. W. M. Colwell, H, 210th Pennsylvania; Capt. T. H. Coudry, Adj.-Gen. 2d brigade, 3d division, wounded in chest; Capt. Jas. Coey, commanding 147th New York, face; Capt. Joseph Dempsey, 47th New York, shoulder; Lieut. W. H. Evans, B, 210th Pennsylvania, finger; Lieut. H. W. Gas-kill, 12th New York; Capt. H. Gowchour, 3d brigade, 2d division, hip; Lieut. J. R. Graham, 14th Connecticut, breast, severely; Lieut.-Col. Haines, 11th Pennsylvania, commanding 88th Pennsylvania, shoulder, severe; Lieut. J. Herrick, K, 6th Wisconsin, knee; Capt. J. B. James, D, 6th Wisconsin, skull; Brevet Brig.-Gen. Morrow, 3d brigade, 3d division; Lieut. McTavish, A. A. G., mortally; Capt. J. Kettlewood, 1st Delaware, contusion; Lieut. J. E. Knapp, 108th New York, slightly; Capt. W. McGuire, 69th New York; Col. Murphey, knee; Lieut. Morris, thigh and hand; Capt. E. Miller, C, 8th New Jersey, shoulder; First Lieut. G. W. Shealy, I, 8th Maryland, wrist; Col. Tilden, 20th Maine; Lieut. W. Weyburn, 47th New York, foot, amputated; Lieut. Oscar Well, I, 5th New York, hand; Lieut. R. A. Wilson, 1st Maryland.

The following table is said to show accurately the proportion of officers of the Regular Army on duty with their regiments:

Of 6 Colonels of Cavalry, none.  
5 Colonels of Artillery, two.  
19 Colonels of Infantry, two.  
6 Lieutenant-Colonels of Cavalry, none.  
6 Lieutenant-Colonels of Artillery, one.  
19 Lieutenant-Colonels of Infantry, one.  
18 Majors of Cavalry, none.  
11 Majors of Artillery, none.  
46 Majors of Infantry, four.  
72 Captains of Cavalry, twelve.  
60 Captains of Artillery, twelve.  
310 Captains of Infantry, forty-six.  
86 First Lieutenants of Cavalry, thirty.  
119 First Lieutenants of Artillery, fifty-one.  
262 First Lieutenants of Infantry, ninety-eight.  
22 Second Lieutenants of Cavalry, twelve.  
40 Second Lieutenants of Artillery, twenty-two.  
86 Second Lieutenants of Infantry, twenty.

The new flag adopted by the Rebel Senate on last week Saturday is as follows:—The width two-thirds of its length, with the union now used as a battle flag, to be in width three-fifths of the width of the flag, and so proportioned as to leave the length of the field on the side of the union twice the width below it, to have a ground of red and broad blue salter thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States; the field to be white, except the outer half from the union, which shall be a red bar extending the width of the flag.

The Old Capitol prison has been entirely cleaned out of Rebel officers and men, including a large number of guerrillas, several hundreds of whom have been sent to Northern prisons within the past few days. Nineteen Rebel Surgeons were ordered to be sent from Fort Delaware to Fortress Monroe Wednesday for exchange. It has been decided that, in future, no officer or enlisted man in our service shall be committed to the Old Capitol prison except upon the order of the Secretary of War.

COLONEL MULFORD landed a cargo of a thousand of our exchanged prisoners at Annapolis on Wednesday. "The best conditioned lot of our poor boys," said he, "ever delivered to me. Nearly all could walk." He endeavored to bring away from Varina more of our sick and wounded prisoners, but the ice on the river banks made it impossible to ship them. The boats could not be forced up to the dock.

GENERALS CURTIS and Pennypacker, both of whom were wounded at the capture of Fort Fisher, are still at Fortress Monroe, at the Chesapeake Hospital, and at last accounts slowly recovering. General Pennypacker's wound was a very severe one, and it will be some time before he can recover, but he is doing well under the circumstances.

In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 25th ult., the Secretary of War transmits a copy of the Report of the Commissary General of Subsistence, accompanied by a list of the officers of his department, showing severally their rank, and where and how long each of them is or has been employed. The list comprises 610 names.

A COURT-MARTIAL has been organized for the trial of Brigadier-General Payne, late in command at Paducah, Ky., and against whom very cruel and rapacious acts have been charged in Congress and elsewhere. The court will consist in part of Major-Generals Hunter, Casey, Heintzelman and Harrow. Colonel Dunn is appointed Judge-Advocate. The court meets at Cairo on the 9th inst.



## THE FIGHTING OF TROOPS.

WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO INFANTRY REGIMENTS.

"Un soldat sans tactique ne vaut rien, lors même qu'il possède toutes les sciences du monde. Il peut occuper une place dans la vie civile, et même sous quelques rapports, à l'état major, mais jamais sur le champ de mort, lorsque le dieu du combat y dresse sa chevalerie de bronze."—DROGON—Tactique des trois armes.

BATTLE is the final object of all the training given to the soldier. It may be that the enemy shall yield without a fight, but the stern decision of combat is always the one looked to, and with a view to it everything is done. For this the strict regulations as to preserving rations and ammunition, and as to keeping the arms in good order. For this the teaching of subordination, and immediate, unquestioning obedience. For this the officers have studied, and the troops practiced their tactics, and the superior commanders have thought out the possible contingencies of the field. Perhaps years of preparation have been gone through, and now, concentrated in one short hour, or even less, is the culminating demand on all the skill, all the alertness, all the presence of mind, and all the knowledge of what should be done, acquired beforehand. Life or death, honor or dishonor, possibly, freedom or slavery, are staked on the result. It is a moment of intense responsibility for the officer, of high excitement for the soldier.

We propose to discuss the subject of battle under the divisions: *Preparation for action, coming into action, in action and after action.*

## PREPARATION FOR ACTION.

In previous numbers of the JOURNAL, those grand preparations for action, "*discipline and the care of troops*," have been discussed, although without any particular reference to the bearings of the former on actual fighting; also, that common precursor of battles, *marching in large bodies*. For both these, it was shown that good non-commissioned officers are all but a *sine qua non*. They are not the less such on the field of battle, and as for the former so for this; selecting and forming them should be the first point in preparation.

As regards discipline itself no troops can fight well without a habit of it. "Discipline creates military spirit," and military spirit makes real fighting troops. Yet, as a man, although he cannot run long or well without good lungs, must still be capable of using his legs; so, although troops cannot fight long or well without discipline, still they must *drill, drill, drill*,\* until the officers direct, and the soldiers execute, as instinctively the one, and as promptly the other, as the brain orders or the limbs perform the motions requisite for progression.

To begin then with drill, as a preparation for action, and with one of the chief points in it, *handling the musket or the sabre*, it may be remarked that the value of expertness in the use of either, particularly the musket, is too often underrated. The trooper must come up with his enemy, and he may then, perhaps, get his horse to do what his own hands should accomplish, namely, disable his foe, but the infantry soldier has the most frequent use for his weapon, at such a distance that nothing can supply the blank left by any awkwardness he may show in using it.

Old soldiers know well the difference in the moral working upon the enemy brought about by different troops. One regiment will come up, and, with a comparatively small use of cartridges will thin the ranks confronting them as the autumn tempest strips the trees. Another, although wrapt in a continual canopy of flame and smoke, will produce little effect, and simply because they do not fire well. This latter, perhaps, manoeuvres excellently, and stands with an admirable but melancholy firmness, as its own men fall one by one; but, that enemy must be very raw to whom they give the demoralizing shock which might be anticipated from so many hundred muskets brought up in such good order to the line of battle.

Too much attention, therefore, cannot be given to teaching the infantry soldier, first of all, how to aim and fire; secondly, how to handle his musket, so as not to interfere with his neighbors. Every interval of a rainy day, when other exercises cannot take place may be most profitably employed in *additional musket and bayonet drill*, particularly since they can be conducted so near the tents, that the men may remain out until a shower actually begins.

It is beginning to be understood that a good share of the practice in aiming may take place to as great, if not to greater advantage, without burning cartridges. To point the musket in the proper direction, to hold it immovable, and to pull the trigger without any jerk, are the essential points.

For the first, which includes the estimation of distances, so as to allow properly for the fall or rise in the curved line described by the projectile, in relation to the straight line of aim,† the eye must be practiced.‡ Means for exer-

\* We know that, among civilians, a certain confusion of terms exists, so that drill is considered discipline. If we choose to give the word an extensive meaning, it may be so: but even if all drill be discipline, all discipline is by no means drill. Drill, in fact, important as it is, goes for but a small part in the making of a soldier.

† We have seen it stated in an English report of the practice at Vincennes (Stonewall) that on an average "an error of 16 feet in

cise in judging distances are easily improvised and we shall presently give a handy method for teaching the adjustment of the barrel. For the two last the body must be exercised, and here several suggestions may, we think, aid in obtaining the *aplomb* required. One is the commonly known expedient of filling the chest with air, and holding the breath; another that mentioned in "Wilcox's Rifle Practice,"\* of having the weight on the left leg; and we proceed to add a third, which, being founded on a general principle, may aid not only in supporting the barrel and pulling the trigger, but ought to facilitate the whole manual of the musket, and also the use of the sabre.

The Prussian infantry tactics notice, in directions for marching, that the foot should take the ground on its outer (the little toe) side, and leave it from the inner (the great toe) side. Now this distinction of sides holds, with equal force for the hand, as regards all surfaces against which it may be applied. All of what may be called the "gathering movement" takes place on the little finger side of the palm of the hand, as on the little toe side of the ball of the foot; and it is not until this "gathering motion" is fully developed that the final action of bringing into play the thumb and forefinger side in the one case, and the great toe side in the other, so as to produce a spring or a clasp, respectively, can be performed in perfection. We say in perfection, because the contrary order often has place, accompanied by a comparatively unsteady and weakened action, the natural result of a hurried movement without the previous proper adjustment of the body. When the due succession is allowed, the first, or "gathering motion" is prolonged, the second, or "spring," is powerful but rapid and occurs spontaneously so soon as the first is carried to its extreme limit.†

It is, then, the little finger side of the palm of the hand which should first meet the musket in all motions. An action in which the knuckle of that finger, and, as the hand closes, the end of the ulna (or the forearm bone on that side of the wrist) will, as it were, push or stretch themselves tensely from the body. The continuation of this movement will, without any special effort on its own part, so free the thumb side that it shall turn over outwards, opening the hand. Still continued, a spontaneous tendency to action will take place in the forefinger and thumb which they can carry out, whether in grasping the piece or pulling the trigger, without in the least affecting the arm or the rest of the hand, and therefore without any tendency to raise the muzzle.

From the heel of the palm (or muscular cushion behind the root of the little finger) to the root of the thumb, the direction runs obliquely forward. It is here that the musket or the sabre grip should lie; they are first pressed by the heel of the palm, and, last of all, (as following on a progressive increase of this action, during which the little finger closes) the thumb and forefinger, which were at first repressed, close also, and with a sudden but perfectly unobtrusive movement.‡

At the same time the chin must be kept up and the head, or rather its point of juncture with the neck, advanced. The former frees the shoulder blades, and the latter brings the weight of the body off the heels and on the balls of the feet. Should the balance be destroyed, it will then be restored by filling the upper part of the chest with air, and advancing this adjusting centre of the body forward and upward.

In performing the moulinets of the sabre exercise, the same action of the little finger knuckle and then the end of the forearm bone on that side of the wrist (it stretching from the body as the little finger closes; while at the same time the hand rolls outward), is to be kept up as long as possible and until a spontaneous action of the thumb and forefinger complete the motion with a sudden and powerful impulse.

estimating 1,000 yards will cause the ball to miss a target 10 feet high; and that an error of 33 yards in 540 yards will have the same effect. If a horizontal aim be taken along the line of metal, with a rifle, the ball will rise over a horseman's head at 250 yards; and if with a smooth-bore musket aim be taken, from the same distance, at the breast of an infantry soldier the ball will lodge in his hips."

\* Among the most ingenious expedients for judging distances which we know, is that mentioned in "Aide Memoire to the Military Sciences," as having been practiced by Capt. BARRY, of the British Engineers, in 1840. It consists simply in making the varying diameters of the different parts of the musket the criterion for judgment; according to the extent to which they will cover a man; thus, if the muzzle of a carbine held to the shoulder, and a little to one side, so as to bring the object in view, covered a man from his feet to his breast, he was 80 yards distant; at 140 yards the rammer head would cover him entirely; the blade of a bayonet fixed would cover him at 75 yards; the musket sight at 250 yards. Of course the data for arms of various patterns must be fixed by experiment.

\* It will be seen that, according to what follows, filling the chest and stepping back from the left foot (for the action of a back step is the working of the body when pulling the trigger) are both regarded as final and not preparatory motions.

† We think that this finds an explanation in the anatomy of the part. Although the forearm consists of two bones, there is but one of them which enters into the formation of the elbow joint, and this is that against which the little finger part of the wrist works. That part of the wrist which sustains the action of the thumb and forefinger side, on the contrary, is connected with the elbow joint only through the medium of the former, against the upper end of which it moves in a socket that allows it to rotate at its lower end around its fellow. The last bone, and with it the thumb and forefinger, depending thus for their freedom of motion on the first bone, which supports the little finger, it is only when the actions of the latter have had full play, and involved the socket above, that the former is at liberty for steady motion.

‡ Most men grasp first with the thumb side, and thus cramp the action of the hand, and indeed of the whole body.

The cuts involve a similar movement, in which, after the action of the little finger side of the hand has thus nearly brought the edge to the object it is to meet, the sudden and spontaneous closing of the thumb side will give, not merely a powerful stroke, but also that "draw" which is considered a peculiar mark of Turkish and Moorish swordsmen. The edge too will descend perpendicularly; whereas, with a premature clasp from the thumb side it always glances, or an attempt to prevent this interferes with the force and freedom of the cut.

The same remarks hold good in thrusting with the bayonet or small sword. It is, however, to be remarked that the action with both hands, in the former, renders it more pressingly necessary that the shoulder blades be freed in the manner referred to above.

To avoid recurring again to this subject, which is indeed that of the "setting up of soldiers," we will here introduce the *seat on horseback*, and *marching*. If the same rules, namely, beginning with and continuing the closure of the little finger, until this action brings on that of the thumb, be applied to the bridle-hand, they will be found to steady it. The riding-school practice of grasping a cylinder of wood, or the like, in the right hand, while the right arm hangs extended at the side, if carried out in this way, will also be found to meet the general fault of keeping the right shoulder to the rear. And if, at the same time the action of the hands is regulated as above, the chin be kept up and the head advanced, while the thighs and knees are allowed to freely roll outward on each side (all clinging with the knees being avoided) it will be found that the central line of the body, being, as it were, drawn forward between the thighs and between the lower ribs, by the advancing head, a moment will come when the upper ribs will rise, that part of the chest fill with air, and the whole frame spring back into the perfect position with a clasp of the horse's body and a springy adaptation to its movements, to be attained in no other way.

The march on foot depends upon these same principles, and to connect them with those given in a former article in this journal, we have only to mention that the upper chest cannot be properly filled with air until the drawing forward of the central line of the body (as just mentioned for the position on horseback) accompanied by the same turning outward of the knees, thighs and lower ribs, be carried out. The air in the chest retained at pleasure, by the *pneumostatic* pressure of the lid of the windpipe then becomes by its elasticity the great adjuster of the body; for while, drawn forward by the raising of the chin and advancing of the joint where the head fits on the neck, the body would lose its balance to the front, this balance is continually readjusted by the rising of the chest.

The upper chest once thoroughly filled, and the air not allowed to escape too rapidly its alternate compression and expansion sustain and render perfect all the motions of the body, and at the same time render dispensable a great amount of muscular force which must else be expended in procuring a much more imperfect movement.\*

Adding that the final action of the thumb side of the hand and of the great toe side of the foot seem to correspond with the moment when the upper chest is (by the preliminary action of the spine and lower ribs just spoken of) allowed to fill with air, and that the whole of what has been said depends on still more general principles which, should the foregoing explanations prove of any practical benefit in the "setting up of soldiers," we shall feel encouraged to discuss more fully; the above remarks are left for what they may be worth.

THERE is a strong body of British troops in Japan. On the 20th of October some sixteen hundred men were publicly reviewed to the great delight and astonishment of the Japanese. As a singular coincidence the national Japanese troops were also reviewed on the same parade by the side of the British soldiers. Their war dresses were very picturesque and were much admired. The Japanese papers are full of the particulars of the brutal murder of two British officers, Major George Walter Baldwin and Lieutenant Robert Nicholas Bird, of the British Majesty's Twentieth regiment. On the 21st of November they left Yokohama on horseback for an excursion to Kamakura and Dai-boat, but on arriving near the first named place they were set upon and foully murdered. After the usual formality of an inquest, the bodies were interred with full military honors. The British, French, American and Dutch Ministers attended; also the Governor of Kanagawa and suite, and the officers of the ships-of-war and land forces in the country of every nationality. In closing its account of the funeral, the Japan Herald says:—"We know from the best authority, that Sir Rutherford Alcock is resolutely determined, by every means at his command, to urge, and if necessary, to compel the Japanese authorities to do their utmost to discover and deliver up the murderers." It is also stated that the Japanese authorities were doing their best to ferret out the perpetrators.

\* The general action of the body on foot and mounted is the same, the difference being simply that, when on foot, the man first draws his weight forward and then brings the lower part of the body under it, and when mounted the lower part of the body is carried forward and the upper part brought over it.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. W.—The Army Regulations being silent upon the subject of your inquiry, we cannot answer it.

FORT WARREN.—All military salutes must be returned. They should be rendered first by the inferior.

THIRD DIVISION, SECOND ARMY CORPS.—Companies should "fall in" in two ranks faced to the front.

ADJUTANTS should wear the uniform of their respective regiments. They have no right to wear gold cords upon their pants.

GENERAL HANCOCK'S CORPS is being raised for any service that may be required of it. Officers of said corps will be mustered in for one year.

A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE disqualifies an officer for re-entering the service, unless the War Department should set aside the disability resulting from such discharge.

"Non-Com."—It is the business of First Sergeants to make out muster-rolls and keep "clothing accounts," unless his company commander thinks proper to have some one else perform these duties.

VETERAN RESERVE CORPS.—Officers who have been honorably discharged on account of wounds or disease contracted in the line of duty, and who desire to enter this corps must make application to the Provost-Marshal-General of the United States, through the Assistant Provost-Marshal General of the State. The applicant must produce the certificate of the Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment for the district in which he resides, that he is unfit for active field service on account of wounds or disease, that he is not liable to draft, and that he is fit for garrison duty. He must furnish evidence of honorable discharge on account of wounds or disability contracted in line of his duty. He must submit recommendations from the regimental, brigade and division commanders under whom he formerly served, that he is worthy of being thus provided for and is capable of returning adequate service to the Government. When it is impracticable to get this last evidence, he may, having established the first two points above, satisfy the Board of Enrollment that he is deserving, and submit its certificate to that effect. This evidence must be forwarded by applicant with his application.

Regimental officers still in service, unfit for active duty, who desire to enter the Invalid Corps, must make application to the Provost-Marshal-General. His application must contain a full military history of the applicant, and should be accompanied by a surgeon's certificate as to nature and degree of disability, and stating that he is fit for service in the Invalid Corps. These papers must be accompanied by recommendations of a positive character, from at least three officers of rank under whom he has served, as to his military qualifications and fitness for the position. An officer cannot decide upon his own disability for active service.

## THE REPORT ON THE PARROTT GUNS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—Disappointment is quite generally felt at the Report of the Board of Naval Officers, who were ordered to investigate the important subject of Rifle Cannon for the Navy, in connection with the disastrous failure of many of the heavy Parrott rifles.

The directions of the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance to this Board were certainly comprehensive enough. It would appear that they were intended to enable the Board to exhaust the subject—to tell all they knew about it—or, at any rate, to throw some light on it. But, their labors over, we find that, as far as their efforts are concerned, the subject is shrouded in as great mystery as before they undertook the task of investigating it, and one can but fear that they have really increased its obscurity.

One thing, however, it appears they have succeeded in thoroughly accomplishing, and that is, to render those who have to use heavy Parrott rifles more afraid—if they were not already sufficiently alarmed by the recent fearful accidents—of their own guns than of the projectiles of the enemy.

The heavy Parrott rifles have been fractured in nearly every conceivable manner; the breech has been blown out, the wrought-iron band which surrounds the seat of the charge has been split, the wall of the gun forward of this band has been forced or blown out, and the muzzles have been broken off at various lengths.

Now, this Board attempt to account for nearly all, if not all, these disasters by "premature explosions" of shells within the gun; no other cause receives consideration, and nearly a column and a half of fine print is occupied with presumptive evidence as to this cause. One instance given as "conclusive on this point," is worthy of mention, as illustrative of the fact, that fascinated—we know of no better word—with the idea that "premature explosions" account for these lamentable disasters, they ingeniously eliminate all other causes except the shell. There is, certainly, as much reason to suppose the shell to have been the innocent spectator of the effect, as to have been its cause. We refer to the following:—

There is, however, one instance that occurred in the proof of a 100-pounder at Cold Spring, which is conclusive on this point. At the second fire of the gun, a shell exploded prematurely, and the gun showed no apparent injury, and stood the ten rounds without bursting; but a subsequent examination showed it to be seriously cracked in the bore, and it was rejected.

Now, what proof is there in this case which is entitled to be regarded by these investigators, as so "conclusive," that the premature explosion of the shell had anything to do with this crack, which was discovered eight rounds after the premature explosion of the shell? The poor shell, like charity, is made to cover a multitude of sins. Such sort of evidence as this, taken as "conclusive" in a modern scientific investigation, is somewhat analogous to a method in use in ancient times of testing the guilt or innocence of an accused person by compelling him to promenade barefoot through a series of red-hot ploughshares; if he does not burn his feet, the presumption is that he is innocent.

But the method suggested to the Bureau, to accurately test, it is presumed, this theory of premature explosion of

shells as the cause of the failure of the heavy Parrott rifles, is as remarkable as the case cited as "conclusive on this point," and appears to have been suggested by a course of reasoning similar to that which speaks of the former instance as so "conclusive." The method proposed is to take three 100-pounders, exactly of the same character in every respect, place them side by side and fire them one thousand rounds each with the service charge of powder,—one with shells brought up to the standard weight by being filled with sand,—one with the ordinary shell loaded and fused, and one with the shells "coated" on the inside.

Assume this experiment to have been made; and for example, suppose the gun with the usual shell to have been subjected to a premature explosion, and eight or ten rounds afterwards a crack is observed. It may be asked, Is this the sort of evidence which is to be accepted, in an investigation of this importance, to prove that the shell was the cause of this crack? Of what use, then, is such an experiment?

Numerous other instances, quite as likely to occur as the above, and which actually did occur, according to the Board themselves, might be mentioned which would render it impossible for any practical result to be attained by such an experiment. Should not a safe shell gun be strong enough to resist the explosion of shells within the bore?

In vain is the report scanned to find any suggestions for improvement in the construction of heavy rifle cannon, suggestions which there was certainly reason to expect from a Board composed of such eminent ordnance officers—men who have lived among guns all their lives. One member in particular has lived at Cold Spring for two or three years, and has overlooked, on behalf of the Government, the fabrication of all the Parrott rifles which have been issued to the Navy. Has nothing suggested itself to him in this line during the time which might be of benefit to the service?

All subjects connected with heavy rifle guns, except the "premature explosion of shells" within the gun, have been carefully eschewed. They deem it proper to state, however, that the Bureau was fully justified in adopting this gun for the naval service.

Among other things, this Board has clearly exhibited its bias—prejudice it certainly is—in favor of that brittle material, cast-iron, for the construction of powerful ordnance. They show it by forcing into their report a condemnation of wrought-iron, although the instructions said nothing whatever on the subject. This they have done by disingenuously and partially stating facts in relation to several wrought-iron cannon of large calibre, which have been tested. The original gun of the *Princeton*, the "Oregon," which cracked on testing, the breech being stuck in the sand, so that the piece could not recoil, then fired with a very heavy charge, is instanced; but they refrain from stating the subsequent career of this remarkable piece, which, if stated, would render their condemnation of wrought-iron absurd. The explosion of the "Peacemaker" is of course quoted, but without hinting at the causes which were brought out on the investigation of the Committee of the Franklin Institute. That investigation not only throws much light on the subject of wrought-iron ordnance, but gives good reasons why this particular gun failed. It may be safely said that the unfortunate disaster to this piece kept back the development of our naval ordnance twenty-five years. The 13-inch wrought-iron gun recently severely tested, comes in for its share of condemnation; it is alluded to in precisely the same spirit as the others. What its defects are is not mentioned.

The exploits of the 13-inch wrought-iron Horsefall gun in England, which are known to the whole scientific world, are passed over in silence; neither is the fact that not one of the heavy wrought-iron Armstrong guns, whatever may be the defects in the rifling or method of manufacture, has exploded, with the exception of one 104-inch, which blew out the breech plug, on account of an obvious mechanical defect. This latter is mentioned as illustrative of the immense strength of a wrought-iron barrel.

This Board, true to their cast-iron antecedents, ignore the fact that there are certain functions which modern naval warfare require of ordnance, which can only be obtained by the employment of either wrought-iron or steel, or perhaps a combination of both.

One redeeming feature in the document, is the recommendation that the well-known mechanical engineer, Mr. AMES, be permitted to fabricate one gun (and one gun only, it should be remarked), of suitable calibre, form and weight. By suitable calibre, it is presumed at least thirteen inches is meant. Mr. AMES has been knocking at the door of the Ordnance Bureau for a number of years, and now deserves congratulation that he has achieved an entrance.

It is a subject for reflection, that while this Board virtually condemned by their silence cast-iron as unreliable for very large calibres, with heavy charges, they endeavor to condemn wrought-iron also. The peculiar mental process through which such a result is arrived at, will be of interest to the metaphysician. What chance is there, it may with propriety be asked, for improvement in that great desideratum, powerful ordnance, if such reasoning as this report contains on this head is permitted to shut the door of progress? The time may come when our national life may be jeopardized for the want of powerful ordnance of large calibre, capable of being used against the enemy with proportionately large charges of powder.

EXCELSIOR.

## WHISKY IN THE ARMY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—In your issue of December 3, 1864, I have observed a communication subscribed, "An Officer," proposing the abolition of whisky from the Commissary Department of the Army. I desire to express in your columns my most cordial endorsement of this measure, and would fain reiterate with ten-fold emphasis, every word said in its favor. I approve of it, not merely as a means of economizing public expenditure, but of removing the most fruitful source of evil that ever cursed our Army.

During three years of active service in the field, I have made careful observations upon this subject, and have been impartially led to the following conclusions:—

That any allowance of whisky to the troops impairs their discipline.

That it injures their health.

That it is ruinous to both their morals and morale.

I might cite numberless facts corroborative of these statements. But they hardly need proof, for they are confirmed by the observation of every one, both in the Army and out of it. The well-known influence of this stimulant is to provoke the worst passions of human nature. Crime and insubordination are the natural and legitimate effects of its use. If it be used moderately and under strict military restraint, then its effects are lessened in degree, but not changed in quality. Having been compelled by superior authority to issue it to troops under my command, I have carefully noted the results, and have invariably found the discipline of my men impaired after a whisky issue, no matter how small.

I can also bear most unqualified testimony to the injurious hygienic effects of this stimulant. I have scarcely known an exception to the rule that the men who least indulge in it are not only the most faithful and reliable soldiers, but, other things being equal, possess the best health and greatest power of endurance. That paragraph of the Army Regulations which permits the issue of whisky expressly limits it to occasions of extreme exposure or fatigue. But I am satisfied that its use is even then pernicious. Its tendency at such times is to superinduce fevers, and to break down that natural elasticity and tone of the physical system which should ever be its main reliance. Nature asks no artificial help of this kind. She only asks to be let alone, and, with anything like a fair chance, she will always be found able to take care of herself.

That the use of whisky, whether in large or small quantities, is subversive of good morals hardly admits of argument. There is no vice that it does not encourage, no virtue that it does not undermine. It is the prolific parent of evil, and is not promotive of a single good. In short, it is a blighting curse to every soldier who uses it. It is a shame that the Government should present such a snare to its brave defenders. To give it the high sanction of law is to double its dangerous influence. Let it be entirely withheld, utterly abolished, and every candid soldier will commend the measure. Many now addicted to its use will be grateful that a dangerous temptation has been thus removed.

A very large proportion of the whisky furnished by the commissariat is used by the officers, and it is here that its pernicious effects are most apparent. A careful examination of the facts will show that at least one-half of all the disasters of this war have been directly traceable to the intemperate habits of those who have controlled the destinies of our Armies. It is no uncommon thing for officers, both high and low, to exhibit more concern in regard to the supply of this abominable beverage than they do about the most important official concerns. Indeed, the intemperance of our officers is a great and growing evil, and is proving the ruin of thousands. Yet two-thirds of it is caused by consumption of the whisky regularly furnished by the Government. The article is never exhausted, and officers can almost invariably get as much as they want, though enlisted men cannot. Indeed, I have known the supply of whisky to be abundant when the public animals were starving for forage and the troops were on half rations.

The Navy does without whisky. Why cannot the Army? I trust the time will soon come when in both it will be alike prohibited.

OFFICER No. 2.

## A CORRECTION.—JUSTICE TO THE COLORED BRIGADE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—In your issue for December 24th, 1864, a copy of which has just come into my possession (thanks either to Mr. DENNISON's mail system, or the abstractions of some friend for not giving me my JOURNAL weekly), you say under the heading of the "Campaign in Tennessee":—

It is said that the retreat of the colored brigade from Johnsonville to Nashville was disorderly and unsoldierly. More than a million dollars worth of Government property was destroyed, while private plunder was loaded in the wagons. Guerrillas captured wagons and men, and "hushhacked" the command with great ease, a handful of them harrying five regiments and killing and wounding many. Great devastation nevertheless was said to have been made by the troops in pillaging and burning.

In justice to this brigade, which, under Colonel THOMPSON, won for itself at Overton's Hill, a name second to none in the Army of the Cumberland, I pronounce the above a wilful, malicious, Rebel lie, in general and in detail. I saw a similar statement in the *Louisville Journal*—from which report you may have got your information, but I did not think it worth while to contradict the statements of that Rebel sheet. But when it appears in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, whence, if uncontradicted, it may pass into history, it deserves notice.

The general who commanded the Army of the Cumberland is no man to continue in command of a brigade an officer who would conduct such a retreat; and the fact that upon reporting here with his brigade, Colonel THOMPSON was assigned an honorable position on the lines; that he made important reconnaissances; fought on Friday, the 16th of December, beside the gallant Post's brigade of the veteran Fourth army corps; was detached subsequently from the direct pursuit of Hood to take part in the flanking expedition of STEADMAN; commanded a division of infantry operating against LEXON; and has now returned to the Johnsonville Road with his brigade; these facts are enough, and more than enough, to convince any person that the statements in regard to the bad conduct of the brigade are without foundation in truth.

I appreciate (for I have experienced them) the difficulties of getting accurate "news" for a journal, and I understand how in making up your valuable summaries you may sometimes be misled by the statements of influential papers, or their correspondents. But I regret that in this case you have been imposed upon by the disloyal sheet mentioned. For a lie always travels faster and further than its contradiction, and but few of the many who have seen the JOURNAL's assertions will see this denial.

R. D. MUSSEY, Col. and Com'r Org'n U. S. C. T.  
NASHVILLE, TENN., February 3, 1865.

Amongst the recent arrivals of general officers in Washington, are Major-Generals Schofield and J. D. Cox, and Brigadier-General H. J. Mediel.



## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor of this JOURNAL will always be glad to receive from officers in the two services, correspondence and general communications of a character suited to its columns. It is necessary that the name of the writer should, in all cases, accompany his communications, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Officers are especially requested to give us early notification of all personal matters of general interest; of the movements of vessels of casualties among officers; and military and naval events.

The Editor will, at all times, be pleased to respond, in these columns, to enquiries in regard to tactical and other matters.

The subscription price of THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is SIX DOLLARS a year, or THREE DOLLARS for six months, invariably in advance. Remittances may be made in United States funds, or Quartermaster's, Paymaster's or other drafts which should be made payable to the order of the Proprietor, W. C. Church.

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The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

The postage on the JOURNAL is twenty-five cents a year, payable quarterly in advance, at the office where received.

All communications should be addressed to the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, New York.

## BOUND VOLUMES OF THE JOURNAL.

THE Publisher of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL has hitherto been unable to meet the large and unexpected demand for the first bound volume of the paper. To supply this demand it became necessary to stereotype the greater part of the numbers for 1863 and '64. This caused much vexatious delay in responding to orders for the bound volumes. Now, however, the work of stereotyping has been completed and a full supply of the first volume, handsomely bound in cloth, has been obtained. The price of this volume bound in cloth is \$7 50; in half morocco \$10. Gentlemen in the Army, who wish the volume sent to them by express, should enclose the amount of the express charges, which average about \$1 00, as these are required by the companies to be paid in advance.

## U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1865.

## THE NEW MOVE AT PETERSBURGH.

ONE more of that long series of efforts to seize and sever the Richmond lines of supply which has given its distinctive character to the Virginia campaign since its transfer on the 12th of June to the environs of Petersburg, has been inaugurated. To pass judgment upon a movement still in development would, of course, be presumptuous, since force, address, or accident is element sufficient to change in an hour for either side the whole aspect of success or failure. The elaborate preparations for the movement, no less than the employment in its execution of the entire four corps and the cavalry column of the Army of the Potomac (save the detachments assigned for preserving the old entrenchments) forbade at the outset the idea of its being a mere "reconnaissance in force." The length of time during which our troops have been pressing the enemy (in anticipation of which they carried four days' rations), and the vigorous conduct of affairs have also attested that this is another forward movement, analogous to that of the 27th of October against the Boydton Road and Hatcher's Run. And, viewing it in that light, we shall look anxiously for important issues from the attempt.

The present move, indeed, is analogous to the first advance upon Hatcher's Run in so many particulars that any one who comprehended the former one will readily understand the present, which, so far, at least, has been attended with happier fortune. The plan of manœuvre seems to be, to throw a strong flanking or expeditionary column far beyond the right of the enemy's works, which lie along Hatcher's Run, so that it may pass behind them and take them in reverse, and then, if possible, turn north and march upon the Southside Railroad. Meanwhile, the rest of the Army is to form connection between this corps on our left flank, and press the enemy gradually back as far as possible towards the railroad, holding to our old entrenchments as a *point d'appui*. At the moment we write, the movement, after three days of marching and fighting, has so far developed itself as to extend our permanent lines from what was formerly the extreme left at Fort Cummings, on the Squirrel Level Road, to and across Hatcher's Run at Armstrong's Mill, with the advance well out towards Dabney's Mill, a distance of about four miles.

This plan is substantially analogous to that of the former movement—another of the celebrated marches "by the left flank." The lines of advance are the familiar ones—the Vaughan, Jerusalem Plank, and Squirrel Level Roads. Hatcher's Run was easily

crossed by the flanking column far to the left, as before, GREGG's cavalry, also as before, sweeping over all the adjacent roads up as far as the Boydton Plank-road in a careful reconnoissance, and finally forming a junction with the infantry on its left flank, and covering it. This time, however, the Fifth corps and the Second exchanged their former positions. The Fifth, under WARREN, made the détour to the left which HANCOCK, with the Second, made on the first occasion, and the Second took the place next in line on the right which the Fifth then assumed. This time, also, the flanking column executed a longer march to the south, crossing Rowanty Creek (which is the name Hatcher's Run assumes as it widens before reaching the Nottoway) at some distance below the fords on the Vaughan Road. This time, our extreme left has not struck (up to latest accounts) the Boydton Plank-road, which the Second corps reached on the former occasion; but it lies a little south of it, near Dabney's Mill—that is, several miles farther down towards Dinwiddie than HANCOCK's old position. Finally, this time we could not hope to get the advantage of surprise and the uncertainty always cast upon an enemy by a new movement which he cannot comprehend. Our movements have been, therefore, less rapid, more weighty and deliberate, and, apparently, more careful. Instead of having a demonstration in front by the right, to cover the secret march of the left, the whole line has leisurely swung forward on the right as a pivot. Less is hoped from surprise, and more from superiority of force. It may be added, without offence, that, on this occasion, the different corps seem to have been held more closely in hand than before, and the proper connections more felicitously formed, and, in fact, formed usually in sufficient season to meet the attacks of the enemy.

On his part, the enemy has resorted to his old, familiar, and successful tactics—so often successful that it would be incredible if a statement were made of the simple number of successful applications of them during this single Virginian campaign, unless facts and dates were summoned to its support. He threw, in a word, heavy columns of veteran troops against our lines while in the process of formation. On Sunday, the first day of our move, his attack was repulsed with severe loss. On Monday, when our troops began to move forward again, again he hurled himself at the points where he supposed gaps would occur in our lines. We regret to say that he was successful in his effort. But it is a matter of congratulation that while the former affair at Hatcher's Run, where the breaking of MAHONE through our lines forced the abandonment of the movement, our temporary repulse of Monday did not break up the plan. Indeed, our whole loss on that day was only 600 or 800 men, and our line on the day following was thrown out again to the point from which it had been driven back. It is singular that to MAHONE, who has acquired some deserved celebrity from the frequent success of his peculiar tactics—from the Wilderness to the Jerusalem Road and the Boydton Road—is imputed the successful assault of Monday evening.

In its main character, then, and in many of its details, this week's movement is similar to its predecessor of October. Its aim is the Southside Railroad. It seeks to accomplish its end by the extension of our left flank. Unlike the former movement for the same purpose, no demonstration was made north of the James. But it is just as well that this feature of the programme was changed; since we no longer have a force there large enough to make a demonstration, the chief part of the Army of the James being at Wilmington, and our works on the right being occupied by the colored troops. We have always questioned also, whether the Tenth and Eighteenth corps could not have been better employed on the left than on the right in the former manœuvre, (though it is true, that did not fail for lack of troops), since by frequent repetition the device of a feint upon the right has become somewhat stale.

It will not be necessary to repeat here that detailed description of the great movement, which may be found on the first page of the JOURNAL. But it is well to remember, that, in such movements as the present, the first few days are the most anxious and the most dangerous. The enemy is apt to strike hard at once, before earthworks and a well-connected line of battle shall make his assaults cost him too dearly. Each day, also, our troops are learning something new about the country. It is one of the most difficult and

impracticable regions for military operations which even Virginia can boast. It is a rolling country, covered chiefly with a second growth of timber, broken here and there by a clearing of corn-fields, or of old cotton-fields transformed to corn-fields. Now and again you come upon impenetrable swamps, or upon dense, dark, pine forests, and undergrowth—woods in which, as our troops found on Monday, it is impossible to form a continuous line. The narrow roads are perplexing, circuitous as they are, and running into each other. New roads cut across the old ones, adding to the difficulties. If our gallant Army campaigns successfully through that wretched region, of gloomy woods and deceptive swamps, and labyrinthine paths, they can campaign anywhere.

## MILITARY TALENT IN THE WAR.

THE Confederate cause, once so proud and defiant, now sadly humbled, seeks to escape total destruction. The great cause of this change in the aspect of affairs we do not consider to be, as is often alleged, the exhaustion of the military resources of the South. We do not even trace it to the numerical superiority of the Northern Armies. We believe it arises chiefly from the development on our part of military talent which was in a dormant or, at all events, in a subordinate position, at the commencement of the war. A comparison between the characteristics of the leading generals who have appeared on either side, will illustrate, perhaps, the correctness of this opinion, and will show that it does not rest on mere assertion. LEE, the Confederate Commander-in-Chief, and GRANT, our own Lieutenant-General, afford ample material for our first parallel. Neither of these generals is as remarkable for his brilliant as for his sound and trustworthy qualities. Both of them have evidently great faith in the Napoleonic doctrine that victory rests with the strongest battalions. Both of them have great endurance and unconquerable determination; and they owe to these qualities much of their respective successes. An intelligent criticism of the present Richmond campaign will illustrate this fact. There is no doubt that GRANT's original intention was to turn LEE's right flank, and cut him off from Richmond; and then to pass round the city on the west, connecting with a base to be established by General BUTLER at Bermuda Hundred. LEE's determined attack at the Wilderness frustrated this plan. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that LEE confidently expected to drive GRANT back across the Rapidan in three days, and so stated to some of his generals who subsequently fell into our hands. Here he was equally foiled.

After the first Bull Run the positions now occupied by GRANT and LEE were held by McCLELLAN and JOE JOHNSTON respectively. Between these men also a great parallel exists. No two men in the ranks of the old Regular Army were considered to have exhibited more military talent than these. In organizing and disciplining troops, and in the great attribute of inspiring confidence in their followers, they were both unequalled. If they have comparatively failed as generals, it is rather from knowing too much than from knowing too little—from being too desirous to accomplish by manœuvre what others have accomplished by force—and too anxious never to give or receive battle, except with such strong probabilities of success as the great equality, not only of numbers and organization, but of race and morale, between our contending forces has rarely permitted commanders to count on.

When these distinguished tacticians failed, the one in Virginia, the other in Georgia, to accomplish all that the clamors of the people demanded, they were succeeded, the one directly, the other after an intervening commander, by two so called fighting generals, HOOKER and HOOD. No better corps commanders could possibly be found, no more determined men in assault or defence, no men more thoroughly characterized by personal bravery approaching to recklessness. Both possessed good capacities for manœuvring troops, as shown by HOOD in his late invasion of Tennessee, and by HOOKER in his manœuvres before Chancellorsville, and in his march from Fredericksburg to Gettysburg. Yet both failed where they were least expected to fail—in not being able to handle a large army as they had handled a corps. If JOHNSTON and McCLELLAN fought too little, assuredly HOOKER and HOOD have fought too much.



The South look upon STONEWALL JACKSON with more veneration and respect than any other of their commanders, except LEE. His great merits were his executive ability, his determined fighting, and his admirable handling of isolated forces on the small scale which was assigned to him. In all these respects, however, we think either SHERIDAN, HANCOCK, or WARREN, very much his parallel. The comparison could be traced in some curious particulars between these three Union officers and the famous Confederate general. WARREN, for example, has often evinced a combination of dash and sound judgment, and a careful attention to details, which remind one of JACKSON.

To SHERMAN, we can afford no parallel in the history of this or any other modern war. An abler tactician than JOE JOHNSTON, whom he out-maneuvred from field to field; as determined a fighter, when the necessity arises, as either HOOKER or HOOD; as good an executive officer, when under GRANT, as either JACKSON, MEADE, or WARREN, he has shown in the combinations of his last campaign a strategical ability unparalleled since the days of NAPOLEON. His able government of Savannah exhibits a sound judgment and prudence which, combined with his other unequalled excellences, make him the greatest soldier the American people have yet produced.

#### THE HAMPTON ROADS CONFERENCE.

THE Peace Conference is over. The three distinguished skirmishers whom Mr. DAVIS threw out on a scout towards Washington have been withdrawn, while our own Senate, with its usual alacrity in the pursuit of knowledge, has already voted that Mr. LINCOLN ought to tell them his story of the transaction. Since it often happens that an event bloodless and noiseless in diplomatic manœuvres is freighted with weightier consequences to the nation than a Leipzig or a Borodino, reflective persons awaited with some apprehension the issue of the parley in Hampton Roads. Fraud often triumphs where force fails, and the cunning of state-craft can usually repair the damage of the battle-field. Never can we be too careful that pens—to use BLUCHER's familiar couplet—may not lose by writing what swords have won by fighting. It is true, indeed, that no one is authorized to infer from the conference that either the Richmond or the Washington embassy really expected to conclude hostilities. Mr. BLAIR and General SINGLETON may or may not have laid the flattering unction to their souls. But Mr. LINCOLN and Mr. DAVIS understood the affair better. Mr. DAVIS's aim seems to have been chiefly to flank that dangerous peace party which SHERMAN's odd electioneering has lately organized in the Confederacy, and to knock the underpinning from its platform at the outset. His propositions, if we understand them aright, were simply ridiculous. Based as they were on a refusal to acknowledge the authority of the Union, did he suppose that, in our day of triumph, they would be listened to for a moment, except from politeness, by the President of the United States? He could have had no such idea, and we are childish to imagine, as we often do, that, on the Confederate part, these negotiations were opened in good faith. They were like a Congressman's speech—not for effect on the Nation, but for effect in his district. The execution he hoped from the gun he fired was all to come from the *recoil*.

What was the result of the four hours' conference? The great question of slavery was not touched—both parties refraining, with sympathetic repugnance, from exhuming it. But President LINCOLN honestly stated that the basis of all negotiations must be an admission of the existence, integrity, and authority of the Federal Union and the binding force of its laws over all the States, North and South. The three Commissioners demanded an entire cessation of hostilities, in order to consider the question of peace, and declined to recognize the authority of the Union over their Confederacy. Of course, much was said on the one side and the other with regard to the ability to prolong the war. But those two points put in advance terminated the conference to all practical intents long before the five gentlemen shook hands and parted.

It is a matter of speculation whether Mr. LINCOLN and his Secretary did not anticipate as clearly as Messrs. STEPHENS, HUNTER and CAMPBELL, the result of the interview. They probably divined Mr. DAVIS's shrewd scheme to throw the onus of aggression and vindictive hostilities on our Government.

They appreciated, as well as he, the great leverage on popular sympathy, North and South, which either of the contesting governments would get by putting itself in the light of conceding all but honor to its adversary, for the sake of peace. But our part seems to have been managed as adroitly as the enemy's. Our first thought concerning the conference, may have been that Mr. LINCOLN was risking official dignity by journeying from the capital to Fort Monroe, to confer with three prominent insurgents, who brought with them not even the seal of authority from their self-styled Republic. But it is soon obvious that Mr. SEWARD acted with his customary sagacity in holding the conference where he did. On a vessel out in the roadsteads of the James, was the best place to handle the subject under discussion. No *roué* politicians were at hand in Washington to have a talk, a word of sympathy, a little plot, with their old friends. Congress didn't even get a chance to appoint a committee to see what was going on. Mr. LINCOLN and Mr. SEWARD saw the embassy, infested as it was with the plague of Secession, in quarantine, and in quarantine held the conference. At the same time Mr. LINCOLN was able to show the pains he would take to go half way and meet any influential persons who were deputed to talk of peace.

We retain the conviction, already once expressed, that the very asking for a conference shows the existence of a powerful peace party at the South. But probably that party did not find true representatives in Messrs. STEPHENS, HUNTER, and CAMPBELL. The conference was manœuvred to the interests of the war party of the South. At all events, however, we are glad to see that Mr. LINCOLN and Mr. SEWARD comprehended the designs of Mr. DAVIS and his ambassadors.

But, after all, however well this peace manœuvre has been handled, we believe in introducing a military element into propositions for terms. Nor do we mean this simply as an euphemism, in the favorite American metaphor, for expressing that hard fighting must be the antecedent of peace. That belief we do indeed hold. But even when the times are ripe for peace, we believe some military commanders should be consulted with regard to the terms we can enforce. Soldiers are sometimes the best diplomats. It is VAN BULOW, we think, who somewhere says that generals can negotiate with better success, and to the greater satisfaction of the nations whom they represent, from their position, their knowledge, and their professional training. History does not contradict the assertion. What better diplomatist does it record than MARLBOROUGH? What abler negotiators have been needed than Prince EUGENE or than VILLARD, the latter of whom gave the crown of Spain to the Bourbons by his efforts? To enumerate the instances in which BONAPARTE sent his generals to the courts of Europe on diplomatic missions, would be to catalogue a long list of names—COLINCOURT, BERTHIER, SAVARY, and the rest. And even when a stronger statesman stands in the background, he can often manœuvre better by putting forward a great soldier as his mouthpiece.

What history teaches, theory would suggest. In making terms, a shrewd and intelligent general is often able, not only to comprehend better than another precisely what his armies may expect to accomplish in the event of the resumption of hostilities, but he can also make known his expectations and their foundation in a convincing manner to those opposed to him. On the other hand, he can estimate correctly and at once, or, at all events, without the need of so much reflection and consultation as a man unskilled in military affairs, the possibilities and powers of the enemy, and the reasons why he will accept or reject the terms proposed. He knows the actual fighting condition of his own and the enemy's troops; he knows the relative positions of the contending forces; he appreciates the value of time, and how much may be accomplished by either party while negotiations are proceeding; he knows the uses and the dangers of an armistice. A good general will appreciate the honesty or duplicity, as the case may be, of those opposed to him. He can fathom, often, better than another, the military plans and schemes of the enemy. He can estimate correctly the importance of positions in the field already gained, and their relations to future campaigns. Soldiers are less distrusted, also, in such conferences than statesmen. Soldiers, also, from their habitual directness of thought and action,

often proceed directly towards a peace when others will contend interminably about the preliminaries, like BENTINCK and BOUFFLERS at Ryswick, who made a treaty in a few hours which the plenipotentiaries had not been able to arrange in as many months. It is true that our terms are now so simple that the question of their acceptance or rejection might have been delegated to clerks on either side to present, instead of occupying the attention of the able men who discussed them at the Hampton Roads Conference. But, one day, a GRANT or a SHERMAN may be found as useful in the arena of diplomacy as in the field of arms.

We publish this week—along with the debate on the proposition to substitute for our present Navy Department a Board of Admiralty, with Admiral FARRAGUT at its head—an extract from the *British Army and Navy Gazette*, criticising with extreme severity the present condition of the English Navy. This latter document is perhaps the best reply to the arguments of Mr. WINTER DAVIS against our present system. Every fault found with our Navy Department is reiterated with increased force by the British Parliament and press against the administration of their navy. Mr. WINTER DAVIS attacks the Monitor system and declares it worthless. The best authorities declare the British system of iron-clads a complete failure; and, even supposing both allegations to be sustained—our own Navy administration have this to say in their favor, that they had to decide at once in a time of war, and that the class of vessels they have decided upon have at least this merit, that they have frustrated all the attempts of the Rebel iron clads, have rendered very efficient river and harbor service, have been built in much less time, and have not cost a tithe as much as the French and British vessels. Speaking of these vessels, Mr. FAIRBAIRN, the eminent English engineer,—who, as one of the best authorities upon the subject, holds the position of Chairman of a Committee on iron-clads—says that the construction of a sea-going iron-clad able to resist shot over 300 lbs. weight, is so difficult, not to say impossible, that instead of attempting it, it would be well to turn attention to the construction of vessels which will permit the shot to pass through with the least possible damage to the crew and ship. The whole question is so involved in complicated issues; the resisting power of different armors, and the aggressive power of large guns are questions still so much open to discussion, from the improvements which are constantly making, that it is impossible to adopt a course against which such criticisms as those we find constantly in our Congress and press cannot be made. Our Navy Department have done, in this matter at least, as well as could reasonably be expected, and have, perhaps, adopted the only course consistent with the time and resources at their disposal.

No departmental organization will remedy the defects alluded to. A Board of Admiralty will divide instead of concentrating responsibility. If Admiral FARRAGUT be a better man than Secretary WELLES, for the management of our Navy, by all means let him be made Secretary of the Navy; but the fighting of a fleet and the organization of a Navy are very different subjects, require exceedingly different management, and demand qualities so opposite that we can hardly expect to see them combined in one man.

The real question at issue is a very different one—it is whether the Navy Department, and by the same rule all the other departments of the executive, shall be responsible to the people through the PRESIDENT or through Congress. This question is one bearing such a number of different aspects, that we cannot give it the attention it deserves in this article; but we venture to suggest that a few more debates in Congress, with their developments, will soon convince the public that they had better suffer the ills they have, than fly to others which they know not of.

In addition to those already published, we have received the following names of officers of the Regular Army retired by the Board in session at Wilmington, on account of wounds received in the line of duty:—Lieutenant P. H. MORONEY, 14th U. S. Infantry; Lieutenant D. E. BATES, 13th U. S. Infantry; Lieutenant ALFRED TOWNSEND, 18th U. S. Infantry; 2d Lieutenant JOHN ELLIOTT, brevet 1st Lieutenant, 2d U. S. Artillery.



## THE COMPANY CLOTHING BOOK.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR KEEPING THE COMPANY CLOTHING BOOK IN THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

1. The blank at the head of the page will be correctly filled, including *where and when enlisted*.
  2. The line for "date of issue," "money value," "rank," "signature," and "witness," will be filled immediately after each issue. The "money value" will include, in one entry, the total amount of the issue; articles are not entered.
  3. The issue and signature are witnessed by some officer of the company not responsible for the issue; if there is none except the commanding officer, then a non-commissioned officer. The company clerk's signature is not admissible unless a non-commissioned officer. Officers and non-commissioned officers, in signing their names, will not forget to add their rank.
  4. The clothing book must contain a complete record of all the clothing issued to the soldier, of which the company commander has official notice; this includes clothing charged on properly authenticated "descriptive lists." One or two lines at the top of the page will be omitted when it is reasonable to suppose that a soldier who joins from any cause, absence or otherwise, may have drawn clothing, the account of which has not been received.
  5. When the entry in the clothing book is a transcript from a descriptive list, it will be made thus: Under "date of issue" write the date of the descriptive list, thus, "dated August 8, 1864;" money value and rank are next entered; the line for "signature" will be filled thus: "Copied from descriptive list;" the name of the officer signing the descriptive list, thus, "signed John Smith, Captain Co. A, 8th U. S. Cavalry," will take the witness' place. If the soldier's clothing account has been settled since his enlistment, and before he is transferred, it should be carefully noted on the book, referring to the descriptive list as before.
  6. In the volunteer service, a soldier is allowed by law for clothing \$3.50 per month, amounting to \$42 per year. The full yearly allowance may be issued in a few months, but only when the company commander is entirely satisfied with the conduct of the soldier.
  7. Care will be taken not to over-issue the yearly allowance. This does not forbid the necessary issue of clothing, but all in excess of \$42 must be charged on the next subsequent transfer muster roll, and deducted from the soldier's pay on the pay roll by the paymaster. These issues are entered on the clothing book as extra, with a memorandum of the muster roll on which they have been paid. Separate receipt rolls are not required for extra issues. In computing the soldier's clothing for his descriptive roll, the extra issues which have been paid for will be omitted, those unpaid entered.
  8. At the expiration of a year from the date of enlistment, and for each subsequent year, the clothing account must be settled, the balance, if any, charged on the next subsequent muster roll, to be deducted or added to the soldier's pay on the pay roll by the paymaster. A memorandum of such settlement to be made on the clothing book.
- If a soldier has drawn exactly his yearly allowance of clothing (\$42) no remark is necessary on the muster roll, at the expiration of the year from enlistment, to settle his account; a memorandum on the clothing book is all that is required.
- The clothing account is not settled by having "extra" clothing charged on the muster roll and deducted on the pay roll by the paymaster.

## FORM.

The United States, in account with William G. Frame, of "A" Company, 100th Regiment Mass. Vols., on account of clothing during his enlistment; the money value of each issue being acknowledged. Enlisted at Boston, Mass., April 9, 1861.

Date of Issue	Money Value	Rank	Signature	Witness
Dec. 9, 1861.	\$37 10		Copied from Descriptive List.	(Sig'd) John Jones, 1st Lt. 3th Mass. V.
Dec. 12, 1861.	4 90	Priv't	William G. Frame.	John Smith, 2d Lt. Co. A.
	42 00			
Jan. 1, 1862.	9 17		William G. Frame. Charged on Muster Roll Feb. 28, '62, and deducted from his pay.	John Smith, 2d Lt.
	Extra			
March 1, 1862.	50		William G. Frame. Charged on Muster Roll April 30, '62, and deducted from his pay.	Frank Ford, Sergt.
	Extra			
May 1, 1862.	5 19	Priv't	William G. Frame.	John Smith, 2d Lt.
March 7, 1863.	36 00		Copied from Descriptive List.	A. G. Surgeon in charge U. S. G. Hospital N.Y. City.
	41 19		Due soldier for clothing not drawn \$9 81, entered on muster roll, April 30, 1864. Paid.	
			Clothing account settled to April 9, 1863.	
March 1, 1864.	9 17	Priv't	William G. Frame.	John Smith, 2d Lt.
			Due Soldier for clothing not drawn, \$52 53, entered on descriptive list April 9, 1864.	
			Clothing account settled to April 9, 1864.	
			Discharged April 9, 1864.	
			D. J. D.	
			Capt. Com'd'g Co.	

**BREECH-LOADERS.**—Whilst we are engaged in making experiments, says the *London Army and Navy Gazette*, with a view of determining the best plan for the conversion of our stock of rifles into breech-loaders, the Americans, keenly alive to the great value of mechanical improvements, and admirably qualified to appreciate them, have issued a commission to determine on a breech-loader to "supersede" the present Springfield musket, which is as nearly as possible the same as our ordinary long Enfield. They are not going to economize or to spend money on alterations, but, with millions of these fire-arms on hand, they are going to equip their troops with a new weapon. Now we take leave to say that if they determine on a weapon using fixed ammunition, and if the sub-committee of the Ordnance Select Committee introduce a weapon requiring to be capped, the American soldier will, *ceteris paribus*, have a decided advantage over the English soldier in war. The commission of the United States War Department consists of Major LAIDLAY, Major BENTON, and Captain EDM. of the Ordnance; Major O'CONNELL and Major MATTHEWS, of the Infantry;

Captain KELLOGG and Captain RODENBOUGH, of the Cavalry. It is rumored that our sub-committee is rather favorably impressed by a French method of converting our present supply of arms into breech-loaders in which "capping" is retained, and we hope the rumor is not true. There is also another statement that machinery is in course of erection at Enfield for the manufacture of the Westley Richards carbine for cavalry, and that 20,000 of these weapons are to be manufactured. Considering the usual rate of service, a stock will thus be laid in for the present century, at the end of which time the Westley Richards, good as it is, will probably be regarded with as much curiosity as the celt of an Ancient Briton.

## AN ENGLISH VIEW OF OUR ORDNANCE.

(From the British Army and Navy Gazette.)

THE report of the Chief of Ordnance to the Secretary of the United States Navy contains suggestions for the more efficient arming and preparing of the fleets of the United States. Since November, 1864, we learn that 1622 guns have been added to the store of the Federals. These belong to what is called the "New System" by the Commodore. They consist of Dahlgrens (or soda-water bottles), Assistant Secretary Fox's 15-inch guns, and rifled Parrotts. It may be remarked by the way that the Federals do not consider a contest between wooden and armor-plated vessels quite hopeless, and Commodore Wise speaks of the former as being likely "to be called upon to take an active and perhaps a decisive part in an engagement with iron-clads." The only change in rifled guns has been in the introduction of a 60-pounder Parrott, intermediate between the 30-pounder and 100-pounder to be used as a pivot gun. It will be observed that, in respect to the most important point for us to know—the charges of powder—no information is given; and we more than suspect that all the remarkable failures of the Federal Navy are accounted for by the low capacity of their ordnance. Commodore Wise, in relating the particulars of the fight between the *Kearsarge* and *Alabama*, observes that the latter had one Blakely 120-pounder rifled and one 68-pounder in pivot, "the especial favorites of the English Navy." Perhaps he will be surprised to learn that the first of these guns is not now, and never was, known in our Navy, and that the second was only spoken of by the Duke of SOMERSET—who is not a sailor, though he is a sailor's friend, we believe—as a good gun for certain purposes, in which the sinking of the *Kearsarge* was not contemplated. It can be easily understood how the Bureau has arrived at the conclusion, with such guns as they possess, that the contest between plates and ordnance is wholly in favor, not only of guns and solid projectiles, but of smooth-bores and spherical shot. The Commodore argues that as a sound and solid 15-inch shot bore 222 blows of an 8-ton steam-hammer (with what steam we are not told), and as the cannon required to hurl these shot with the high velocities due to heavy charges of powder are readily obtained, the question is solved; but when we turn to his proof, we merely find a bald statement that the 11-inch gun is capable of piercing 44 inches of the best iron plating backed by 20 inches of solid oak, without any definition of what the Commodore considers "best" in iron plating, or any account of charge or distance. We are further informed that the 20-inch gun mounted at Fort Hamilton actually discharged a shot of 1080 lbs. with a charge of 125 lbs. of powder; but we are not told how often it was fired; and that the makers were not very confident is evident enough from the fact that they began practice with 50 lbs. of powder only. If charges of the 15-inch and 11-inch are in proportion, we may readily understand how bad the best American plates must be, and how the failure of their bombardments has arisen. Long before the condemnation of the Parrott gun by Admiral PORTER, a severe sentence was passed on them by General GILLMORE, whose operations against Charleston were illustrated by the bursting of no less than 6 200-pounder and 17 100-pounder Parrott guns. If Fort Fisher defied all that the Federal fire could do—even though we doubt very much the accuracy of the reports relating to the cost of shot, shell, and powder—and if the *Tennessee*, plated in a Confederate port, laughed all the big guns to scorn, we may rest perfectly satisfied that Commodore Wise has nothing to teach the British Navy.

## THE ENGLISH NAVY IN A CLOUD.

(From the British Army and Navy Gazette.)

Is more than one sense, a cloud—may we hope only a passing one?—appears to overshadow the British Navy at the present juncture. Within the last four years we have had to record the total loss in two instances accompanied by a most melancholy loss of life, of no less than four of Her Majesty's ships, under circumstances which we have no hesitation in saying reflected no credit on the judgment or discretion of their several commanders.

From the West Indies came the news that the finest two-decked ship in the world and a stout paddlewheel steamer had left their bones on the coral reefs. From distant Australia we heard of that most lamentable shipwreck in which the *Orpheus*, with two-thirds of her gallant crew, perished on a New Zealand bar. It is barely a fortnight since we were shocked by the announcement of the loss of the *Racehorse*, and 95 out of her crew of 104 officers and men, on the inhospitable shore of Northern China; and now, speeding from the Plata, comes the intelligence that Her Majesty's ship *Bombay*, a screw line-of-battle ship of 67 guns, 400 horse-power, and 2,782 tons, was burnt to the water's edge, in sight of Monte Video, on the 17th ultimo, and that when the mail steamer left, one officer and 93 men were missing from their ill-fated ship and her crew of 655.

Such a calamity as this last has been unknown in the British Navy for upwards of fifty years. Scores of vessels since then have caught fire, accidentally or through carelessness, but in all cases the force of discipline or judicious arrangements have been sufficient to avert a catastrophe. How then, it will be asked, can this most unhappy occurrence be accounted for? To this we can give no reply until further details of the calamity have reached us, as the report which we publish elsewhere gives no positive information as to the cause of the fire. The *Bombay* was well-off-

cered, well-manned. She bore the flag of a popular and most fortunate officer; and we have no reason to believe that any want of discipline existed on board of her. On the contrary, by all accounts, she was in a creditable state for a vessel nine months in commission. On all these points it is to be hoped that ample information will soon be afforded. Deeply, however, as this sad catastrophe is to be regretted, it may be of some service to the nation in general, if it should be the means of awakening its representatives to a knowledge of the state of decadence into which the wooden Navy has been allowed to fall within the last five years—a state utterly incompatible with England's present position as a first-rate power. The Admiralty have not the means of replacing the *Bombay* with a screw line-of-battle ship of any class; for, though scores are lying in the Medway, in Porchester Lake, and in Hamoaze, there is not one that could be got ready for sea under two months at the earliest, if then. Of frigates, the *Arctura*, 39, and *Bristol*, 39—nearly out of the hands of the Chatham authorities—the *Constance*, 35, and *Doris*, 22, at Plymouth, are all that are available for service. The *Scout* is the only corvette ready for commission; and of small vessels, exclusive of an 80 horse-power pelter or two, we have actually only the *Serpent*, at Sheerness, and the *Sparrowhawk*, which could be sent to sea under six weeks, and one of these latter vessels must be despatched to take the place of the lost *Racehorse*. From every station come demands for paddlewheel steamers; but not only have we none to send, but our reserve of that most useful class of vessel, exclusive of the *Terrible*, consists of the *Basilisk* and *Barrecoouta*, at Sheerness, undergoing repair; the *Furious* and *Vulture*, in a most wretched state, at Portsmouth; the *Sphinx*, bringing forward at Plymouth to relieve the broken-down old *Geyser*; and the *Vesuvius*, just returned from North America, and in want of a thorough repair. It may be said by the affable individual who makes things easy in Parliament when naval subjects are under discussion, "Oh, but all this, if true, which I by no means admit, is the natural result of the state of transition in which the Navy is at present." Is this so? Have other nations ceased to build wooden ships for service on distant stations? Not they! On the 1st of July, 1864, there were eighteen paddlewheel steamers, averaging from 974 to 1,030 tons, and to carry ten guns each, and twelve magnificent screw corvettes, of the first class, on the stocks in the various Federal dockyards, exclusive of smaller corvettes and gun vessels, and the numerous iron-clads which were being rapidly run up. Have we an iron-clad fit to send round Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope, since we have renounced the construction of all wooden vessels excepting three small corvettes of 1,981 tons? If so, where is she? Is it the *Caledonia*, the *Warrior*, the *Achilles*, or that noble vessel which was to have been sent to the Mediterranean, but which was unequivocally condemned by Admiral DAKES, and is now gracing the waters of the Solent instead? If we have not—and we have not—surely let us be wise in time. Dozens of the ships now perishing for want of repair are still capable of maintaining the honor of the flag in the distant Pacific, or under circumstances in which no iron-clad could display it, if taken in hand in time; and yet we drift blindly on, and trust to the chapter of accidents to save us from a disgrace which is inevitable, unless we bestir ourselves, and prepare for that contest which no one can say we may not have forced upon us whenever the last gun has been fired in Secession.

## PETROLEUM AS FUEL FOR STEAMSHIPS.

At a late meeting of the Royal United Service Institution of England, the subject brought under the consideration of the members was the use of mineral oils as fuel for steamships, on which an interesting paper was read by Captain JAMES SELWYN. He commenced by observing that, as in times past so in the future, the greatness of England must depend on the superiority of her Navy; and, therefore, it was of the utmost importance that all new appliances for the improvement of the Navy should be well considered. Having described the nature of petroleum, it became a question whether it could be made applicable as fuel for steamships. His opinion was that it could be so used. The general impression now prevailing was that twenty gallons of mineral oil were equal to one ton of coal, and his own experiments led him to the conclusion that the heating power of the oil was to that of coal as 4½ or 4 to 1. By extracting the volatile spirit of the oil it could be used with perfect safety. It would occupy less space in a ship than coal, it could be used in tanks or cells, which form of structure was the best for resisting shot. The iron of the ships would also be preserved better by the oil than by the coal. It would be in every way more convenient and cleaner, and would require fewer persons to work. It was said that the expense of the oil would prevent its use as a substitute for coal. There might be circumstances in which no consideration of that kind should be allowed to militate against the use of the superior article. But it was known that the supply of mineral oil was practically inexhaustible, and that it existed in various quarters of the globe. The importation of petroleum from America rose from 10,000,000 gallons to 31,000,000 gallons in 1864, and the price was £18 a ton for the impure, and £23 a ton for the pure. The superiority of the oil to the coal he found to be 4½ to 1; but he had recently received a letter from an American gentleman, in which the superiority of the oil was stated to be much higher. It had been found that the tubular boilers were not the best for retaining heat, and therefore improved boilers would be necessary for the improved means of heating.

Mr. W. C. RICHARDSON, who made many experiments on petroleum with a view to its use as steam fuel, said that he found the superiority of the oil over coal to be five to one, and in some instances six to one. Without knowing the conclusions to which Captain SELWYN had come, he had arrived at very nearly the same results.

In reply to questions Mr. RICHARDSON said that the oil, with proper precaution, could be used with perfect safety. A red hot ball penetrating a tank of petroleum would not explode the oil; it would merely evaporate it. It was like gas. The experiment which he conducted at Woolwich was not the official one, but the officer there was satisfied from the experiments made of the power and efficacy of the oil as fuel.



The Duke of Somerset, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said it was impossible to undervalue the importance of petroleum as a light and heat-producing agent, but its practical application as steam fuel had not as yet been so clearly proved as to justify him in ordering a new boiler to be made in one of their naval vessels. The time might not be far distant, however, when the Navy Department might have to order new steam boilers for all their vessels, such was the rapidity of invention in these days, and if that time came those who took the first steps in proving its utility for this purpose would be gratefully remembered.

### THE WINTER CAMPAIGN.

[From the Richmond Whig, Feb. 4.]

THERE are indications that the enemy intend to take a very brief respite this season from the fatigues of active campaigning, if, indeed, they intend to remit their efforts at all. It is not that they are so strong as to feel themselves able to dispense with the ordinary winter's cessation of hostilities, but that they know themselves to be too weak to prosecute the war with any prospect of success if they allow time for the people of the Confederacy to recover from their transitory depression and to bring to bear the immense resources, both physical and material, which yet remain in the country. The falsifications of all the confident predictions and assured hopes with which GRANT set out on his expedition from Culpepper Court House nearly a year ago, has found something of an offset in the successes which have crowned the Yankee arms on other theatres of action. But the capture of Savannah and Fort Fisher, and the defeat of Hood, would soon cease to afford food for the cheap enthusiasm and boasting prefigurement of Yankeeedom, if these events were followed by that season of military inactivity which has always hitherto sufficed to develop new strength and new confidence in the Confederacy. Hence the nervous anxiety with which the Northern press and the Yankee people clamor for an uninterrupted prosecution of the campaign. Hence the passionate eagerness with which they insist on the hypothetical exhaustion of the South, and on a presumed reappearance of that chimerical Union feeling which was the basis of all their hopes in the beginning of the war. The moment seems to them so propitious, notwithstanding the palpable decay of their military strength, that they cannot avoid availing themselves of the opportunity which it is presumed to offer. They know well that they are weak now—weak than they have been at any time since McCLELLAN led his magnificent Army up to the gates of Richmond; but they know that they will be, relatively, far weaker in the coming spring months.

The seeming willingness to negotiate, the modification of the programme of absolute subjugation, the permission accorded to our Commissioners to visit Washington, all have reference precisely to this condition of affairs. The Washington Government feels that it must fail in reinforcing its armies to the extent required to conduct the war on the scale of previous campaigns unless the declining zeal of the Yankee people can be stimulated into renewed energy. It knows, also, that the Confederacy, so far from being exhausted, is really capable of making far greater efforts than those it has yet put forth; but it counts on the depression which it imagines to have weakened the spirit of our people, and to have disposed them to abandon that which the North so persistently represents as a hopeless struggle. We suppose, therefore, that the three Confederate gentlemen who have gone to Washington will be very politely received, and deluded, if possible, into the belief that there is a hope of success for their mission, in order that preparation for continued war may be delayed at the South, while it is vigorously going forward at the North. In the meantime, SHERMAN, the military hero of the hour, will relax no effort to capture Augusta, or Branchville, or Charleston, and that being accomplished, SEWARD will snap his diplomatic fingers in the faces of our Commissioners, and remand them to Richmond to await the grand movement which GRANT is said to be preparing. If it is true that THOMAS's forces have reinforced GRANT, we may conclude that the Lieutenant-General intends to recommence active operations within a very short time—probably, soon enough to act in concert with the movement SHERMAN has undertaken in South Carolina. We have reason to believe, nevertheless, that both of these commanders will find themselves overmatched by the superior genius now controlling the Confederate armies. GRANT has done his worst against Richmond, and we sincerely believe that SHERMAN has come to the end of his career of success. We hope and we believe that if SHERMAN continues his course, as at present indicated, he will meet with a speedy and fatal check.

FROM an interesting account in a Swiss journal, we ascertain that the oldest of the officers of the French Army is Colonel DUBOIS-FRENEY, retired colonel of engineers, chevalier of Saint Louis, and commander of the Legion of Honor. He is now 106 years and 6 months old, having been born on the 2d of August, 1768. He has been afflicted with blindness for the past four years, but, that excepted, he enjoys all his faculties, and is of remarkable gaiety. He has his paper read to him every day from one end to the other, converses agreeably with visitors, and hums the refrains of his youth, when alone, "for the want of other occupation." His eldest son, also, colonel of engineers, is actively second in command at the school of application of engineering and artillery at Metz. Colonel DUBOIS-FRENEY is not the only centenary in the French Army. Lately Colonel MARECHAL, aged 101 years, was promoted into the Legion of Honor. These great ages seem strange to us Americans, with whom even an officer of 80 years is an object of veneration.

THE *Phare de la Loire* says that 240 wounded or discharged soldiers, who recently arrived at St. Nazaire from Mexico, were suffered to remain an entire day in front of the Town Hall without either food or money. Some of these soldiers arrived at Nantes at 6:30 p. m., and the remainder not until 9 o'clock; they were exposed to a cold rain, and went to the Hotel de Ville, where they were not expected. The *Phare* cannot understand how it became necessary to billet these men on the inhabitants of Nantes at an hour when every door was closed. As late as mid-

night several wounded men were still in search of their billets, and they declared they had not suffered so much during the whole campaign. This is a most extraordinary case of mismanagement.

### ARMY AND NAVY PERSONAL.

MAJOR-General Meade returned to the Army of the Potomac on the 1st, after a short absence.

MAJOR-General A. E. Burnside, and Colonel Mulford, Commissioner of Exchange of Prisoners, arrived in Washington on Wednesday.

CAPTAIN J. G. Oltman, Acting Topographical Engineer on Major-General Emory's staff, has been appointed to a majority in the Coast Survey service.

ASSISTANT-Surgeon E. J. Daken, U. S. A., in addition to his present duties, has been assigned to duty as Treasurer of the Officer's Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky.

LIEUTENANT-Colonel F. L. Manning, One Hundred and Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, has been announced as Provost-Marshal-General of the Army of the James.

MAJOR-General Emory has been presented by the officers of his staff, with a handsome sword, sash and belt. The General acknowledged the compliment in an appropriate speech.

ASSISTANT-Surgeon S. M. Horton, U. S. A., has been relieved from duty in the Department of the Gulf, and ordered to report for duty to the Medical Director, Department of the Missouri.

BREVET Brigadier-General Morris has been only temporarily assigned to the command of the Middle Department during the absence of Major-General Lew. Wallace, and not permanently, as has been stated.

CAPTAIN Henry S. Burrage, Thirty-sixth Massachusetts regiment, who was dismissed from the service some time since for exchanging papers with the Rebels, has been restored to his position, and will soon be exchanged.

THE President has nominated to the Senate Colonel Nathan A. M. Dudley, of the Thirtieth Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers, and Major in the Fifteenth United States Infantry, to be Brigadier-General of Volunteers by Brevet.

CAPTAIN Oliver Mathews, Assistant Adjutant-General, and for some time past on duty at the headquarters of the Eighth Army Corps, has been relieved from duty at Baltimore and ordered to Washington for duty, under Major-General Hancock.

COLONEL George R. Latham, of the Sixth West Virginia Cavalry, has been dismissed from the service of the United States, on the finding a court-martial, for allowing the post of New Creek, West Virginia, to be surprised by Rebel raiders some time ago, and its garrison captured.

MAJOR-General Emory, of the Nineteenth Army Corps, accompanied by Captain Cooley, of his staff, arrived at Washington on Wednesday, from the Shenandoah Valley. General Emory has been summoned before the War Committee to testify in reference to the Red River campaign.

CAPTAIN Smith, Assistant Quartermaster, for some time connected with the Chief Quartermaster Department of Washington, has been assigned to the headquarters of Brigadier-General Harding's division, Twenty-second Army Corps, occupying defences north of the Potomac, with the rank of major.

CAPTAIN Fred. H. Cruso, Company H, First New York Engineers, has been commissioned by his Excellency the Governor, Major, with rank from the 9th of January, and assigned by Colonel Serrell to command the Third battalion of that regiment, with headquarters at Varina, Va.

A MEDICAL Board, consisting of Surgeon Wm. S. King and Assistant Surgeon Chas. C. Gray, United States Army, has been ordered by the War Department to assemble, to examine into and report upon the case of Brigadier-General Paul, who was seriously wounded at the battle of Gettysburg. General Paul holds the commission of Colonel of the Fourteenth Regular Infantry.

MAJOR Adam E. King, Assistant Adjutant-General, United States Volunteers, is announced as Assistant Adjutant-General at Headquarters, Department of Washington. The Major-General Commanding regrets the necessity which deprives the Department of the services of Major C. H. Raymond, Assistant Adjutant-General, and trusts the same success will follow him in private life, which has attended his efforts whilst connected with the Army.

BREVET Brigadier-General Wm. Hoffman, United States Army, Commissary-General and Inspector of Prisoners of War, has relieved Brigadier-General H. N. Wessells, United States Volunteers, in charge of the office of the Commissary-General of Prisoners in the city of Washington. Brigadier-General Wessells has been assigned to the command of the draft rendezvous at Hart's Island.

THE Armstrong gun which was captured at Fort Fisher was the one which was presented by the manufacturer, Sir William Armstrong, to Jeff. Davis. A soldier, describing it, says: "It is by all odds the handsomest gun I ever saw, being entirely of twist wrought iron, and mounted on a magnificent solid mahogany carriage."

THE Secretary of War in response to an inquiry, says that the preparation for the publication of the Army register has already been commenced. The delay has been occasioned by the difficulty of ascertaining accurately the numerous charges which have taken place from death, resignation, and other casualties, changes of station, &c., involving extensive correspondence.

At a recent execution of deserters in the Army of the James, the Eleventh Maine regiment was excused from witnessing the scene, not a man having deserted from it since the beginning of the Richmond campaign.

It is said that the President's son, Mr. Robert Lincoln, intends entering the Army soon as an aid on the staff of Lieutenant-General Grant.

### ARMY GAZETTE.

#### SENTENCES OF COURTS-MARTIAL.

##### DISMISSED.

Second Lieutenant Frederick E. Rogers, 54th Massachusetts volunteers, for neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (going to sleep while in charge of a relief posted to guard prisoners of war). Sentence mitigated to forfeiture for three months of all pay and allowances, except the allowance for one ration.

Second Lieutenant Abraham A. Van Guilder, 26th United States colored troops, for disobedience of orders and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Second Lieutenant Joseph P. Stoops, 2d regiment veteran reserve corps, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (using ungentlemanly language to a lady and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (playing at cards with enlisted men).

Second Lieutenant Antonio A. Dias, 2d Texas cavalry volunteers, for violation of the 6th and 9th Articles of War. Sentence mitigated to suspension from pay for the period of two months.

Captain John O. Keefe, 3d East Tennessee volunteer infantry, for disobedience of orders and misbehavior before the enemy.

Surgeon Caleb V. Jones, 63d Indiana volunteers, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (using abusive language in the presence of enlisted men to a man who had reported himself sick, and using contemptuous and disrespectful language concerning his superior officer.

First Lieutenant Alfred M. Taylor, 11th United States colored artillery (heavy), for absence without leave, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and breach of arrest.

Second Lieutenant Frederick H. Ferris, 74th United States colored troops, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

First Lieutenant A. S. Jackson, 188th Pennsylvania volunteers, for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (intoxication and allowing enlisted men to become intoxicated in his presence): found guilty of the charge. Sentence mitigated to loss of pay and allowances for three months.

First Lieutenant William H. Davis, 58th Pennsylvania volunteers, for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (gross intoxication, and using language unbecoming an officer and a gentleman).

Captain Thomas S. Bunker, 88th Ohio volunteers, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (receiving the local bounty on a fraudulent credit to some locality on the draft of a dead man).

First Lieutenant Hugh P. Fitzsimmons, 2d New York artillery, for absence without leave.

Second Lieutenant John Boker, 16th New York artillery, for absence without leave.

First Lieutenant James G. Hill, 4th New Jersey volunteers, for disobedience of orders and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Second Lieutenant Eldridge Levan, 88th Pennsylvania volunteers, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (appropriating to his own use money belonging to an officer of his regiment): with loss of all pay and allowances, and to be confined at hard labor at the penitentiary at Albany, New York, for one year.

First Lieutenant Peter W. Johnson, 16th New York artillery, for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (using disrespectful language to his commanding officer).

##### CASHIERED.

Captain Edward C. Henshaw, Henshaw's independent battery, Illinois light artillery, for conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (gross intoxication), violation of the 15th, 18th, 36th, and 39th Articles of War: found guilty of the charges, and thereby disqualified to hold any office or employment in the service of the United States, and to forfeit all pay and allowances now due, or to become due to him, as an officer of the Army.

Second Lieutenant James T. W. Barnett, 12th Kentucky volunteers, for drunkenness on duty, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (appearing intoxicated in the presence of enlisted men), and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (gambling with enlisted men).

First Lieutenant Henry S. Graves, 118th New York volunteers, for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (intoxication and using disrespectful language to his superior officer), and breach of arrest: found guilty of the charge. Sentence commuted to loss of pay and allowances for three months.

Lieutenant Peter Ginter, 200th Pennsylvania volunteers, for drunkenness on duty.

First Lieutenant John Kelt, 37th New Jersey volunteers, for breach of arrest and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Lieutenant William Cullen, for drunkenness, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

First Lieutenant David L. Powders, 207th Pennsylvania volunteers, for drunkenness on duty.

##### OTHER SENTENCES.

Lieutenant D. Brown, 77th United States colored troops, for disobedience of orders: found guilty of the charge—to be reprimanded by his commanding officer.

First Lieutenant Abraham Ellis, 15th Kansas cavalry volunteers, for absence without leave—slop-age of all pay and allowances for twenty-three days.

Captain Gustavus Schreyer, 1st Missouri cavalry volunteers, for neglect of duty, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline: found guilty of the charge—to be suspended from rank, pay, and emoluments for the period of two months, and that he be reprimanded in General Orders by the general commanding the Department.

Major David H. Hastings, United States Army, for embezzlement of money of the United States; knowingly using forged and counterfeited signatures upon vouchers, for the purpose of obtaining from the Government of the United States the allowance of false and fraudulent claims; and forging and counterfeiting signatures upon vouchers, for the purpose of obtaining from the Government of the United States the allowance of false and fraudulent claims—to be cashiered, and utterly disqualified to have or hold any office or employment in the service of the United States; to refund and pay into the Treasury of the United States the amount found to have been embezzled by him, to wit: twenty-six thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars, to pay a fine of five thousand dollars, and to be imprisoned in such place as the Secretary of War may direct for one year, and until the amount embezzled and the fine as herein fixed shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States, provided that the whole amount of imprisonment shall not exceed five years. The charges against the said Major D. H. Hastings, the findings, and sentence to be published in the newspapers in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, and in the city of Harrisburg and borough of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in which last-named place the said Major D. H. Hastings resides. Sentence commuted to suspension from rank, pay, and emoluments for the period of six calendar months.

Second Lieutenant Henry O'Neill, 5th Maryland volunteers, for absence without leave and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Lieutenant George C. Bingham, 47th New York volunteers, for wilfully and knowingly selling property of the United States and furnished in the military service of the United States—to be dishonorably dismissed from the service of the United States, to forfeit all pay and allowances due or to become due him, and to be confined in such penitentiary as the commanding general shall direct for two weeks.

Lieutenant C. H. Shepard, 1st New York mounted rifles, for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (failing to furnish proper invoices for the transfer of Government property)—to be publicly reprimanded in General Orders from the Headquarters of the Army of the James, and to forfeit to the Government of the United States his pay proper for one month.

##### DISMISSALS.

For the week ending January 28, 1865.

The following named officers, to date January 2, 1865, for the causes mentioned, having been published officially and failed to appear before the Commission:

For defrauding men enlisted by him of their local bounty.

Captain Timothy Pearson, 15th Massachusetts Battery.

Absence without leave.

First Lieutenant F. D. Martin, 52d New York Volunteers.

Captain Hugh F. Ozone, 170th New York Volunteers.

Captain Martin Laughlin, 16th New York Artillery.

First Lieutenant Michael McIntire, 3d Michigan Cavalry.



**First Lieutenant David K. Mitchell, 119th Pennsylvania Volunteers.**  
Captain Charles Hilbert, 17th New York Volunteers, to date January 23, 1865, for absence without leave, and the good of the service.

Captain John W. Fenton, 132d New York Volunteers, to date January 23, 1865, for conduct unbecoming an officer, in entering an eating saloon at Newbern, North Carolina, kept by a colored man, creating a disturbance therein, and assaulting the said proprietor. This while he, the said Fenton, was in company with an improper female character.

Captain Henry McCabe, 8th Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, to date January 23, 1865, for habitual drunkenness, and neglect of duty.

First Lieutenant E. H. Johnson, 1st Maryland Potomac Home Brigade Cavalry, to date January 25, 1865, for incompetency, utter worthlessness, and neglect of duty.

Second Lieutenant Wallace Keller, 16th New York Cavalry, to date January 23, 1865, for absence without leave.

#### DISMISSALS CONFIRMED.

The order of dismissal heretofore issued in the case of First Lieutenant Max Rosenberg, 54th New York Volunteers, to date December 16, 1864, for incompetency, habitual drunkenness, neglect of duty, and the constant use of opium, has been confirmed.

#### DISMISSALS REVOKED.

The orders of dismissal heretofore issued in the following cases have been revoked:

Captain Michael Gleason, 23d Illinois Volunteers.  
Captain K. W. Houghton, 31 New Hampshire Volunteers, and he is honorably discharged, to date November 19, 1864.

Lieutenant W. H. Bicker, 3d Pennsylvania Cavalry, and he is honorably discharged as of the date at which he reached a loyal State after his release by the Rebels.

#### DISMISSAL AMENDED.

The order of dismissal heretofore issued in the case of Captain Francis J. Mather, 8th Indiana Volunteers, has been amended to read Captain Francis J. Mather.

#### RESTORED TO COMMISSION.

The following officers heretofore dismissed have been restored, with pay from the date at which they rejoin their regiments for duty:

Captain Theodore Conkey, 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, provided the vacancy has not been filled, evidence of which must be obtained from the Governor of his State.

Second Lieutenant George A. Tappan, 82d United States Colored Infantry, provided the vacancy has not been filled, evidence of which must be obtained from the Commanding General Department of the Gulf.

Captain Charles E. Robinson, Commissary of Subsistence United States Volunteers, heretofore dismissed, has been restored to his position and rank in the service.

#### DISHONORABLY MUSTERED OUT.

The following officers of the 35th Kentucky Volunteers, from date of muster in, for violation of paragraph 89, Mustering Regulations, in transferring men from company to company, thereby fraudulently swelling the ranks to secure improper masters into the service of the United States:

Colonel Edmund A. Starling.  
Lieutenant-Colonel Edward B. Weir, Jr.

The order heretofore issued cashiering First Lieutenant Francis A. Young, 20th Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, has been revoked.

#### DISMISSALS

For the week ending January 4, 1865.

Colonel Jacob Van Zandt, 91st New York Volunteers, to date February 2, 1865, for interfering with the discipline of the 91st New York Volunteers, by ordering enlisted men thereof who were undergoing punishment to be released, and advising a non-commissioned officer not to obey the orders of the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the regiment, pleading drunkenness as an excuse therefor. This while the said Van Zandt was not on duty, nor in command of his regiment.

Captain Nathan Willard, Commissary of Subsistence United States Volunteers, to date January 21, 1865, for not accounting for public funds in his possession, for drunkenness, and for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Captain Philip Bauer, 180th Ohio Volunteers, to date January 28, 1865, for drunkenness and absence without leave.

Captain G. W. Smith, of Smith's Independent Company Maryland Cavalry, to date January 28, 1865, for preferring frivolous charges against Lieutenant J. T. Fearling, of his command, by reason of personal animosity.

Captain Peter Little, 99th Indiana Volunteers, to date January 10, 1865, for absence without leave, having been published officially, and failed to appear before the commission.

First Lieutenant E. F. Jennings, 2d North Carolina Mounted Infantry, to date January 31, 1865, for having tendered his resignation on the grounds of incompetency, and for the good of the service, while under serious charges.

#### DISMISSALS CONFIRMED.

The orders of dismissal heretofore issued in the following cases have been confirmed:

First Lieutenant Charles Reetz, 2d Missouri Light Artillery, to date December 24, 1864, for being drunk and disorderly in the streets of Little Rock, Arkansas, on December 24, 1864.

Lieutenant J. B. O'Connor, adjutant 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry, to date January 23, 1865, for defrauding the Government in sending beyond the lines of the Army a captured horse, after having appropriated the same to his own use.

#### DISMISSALS REVOKED.

The orders of dismissal heretofore issued in the following cases have been revoked:

Colonel G. Kammerling, 9th Ohio Volunteers, thus permitting him to stand out of the service of the United States on the muster-out as made on the rolls of his regiment.

Captain H. L. Smith, 5th New York Artillery, and he is honorably discharged, to date May 28, 1863.

Lieutenant Albert E. Kingsley, 29th Maine Volunteers, and he is honorably discharged, to date June 2, 1864.

#### DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED.

Assistant Surgeon Charles E. Heath, 57th Massachusetts Volunteers, to date November 22, 1864, for having tendered his resignation on the grounds of physical disability, and it appearing from the remarks of his superior officers that his design to leave the service arises "from cowardice only," and that he is "utterly worthless" as an officer.

#### DISHONORABLE MUSTER-OUT REVOKED.

Colonel E. A. Starling, 35th Kentucky Volunteers, and he is mustered out and honorably discharged, to date December 29, 1864.

#### RESTORED TO COMMISSION.

The following officers, heretofore dismissed, have been restored with pay from the date at which they rejoin their regiments for duty, provided the vacancies have not been filled by the Governors of their respective States:

Captain J. W. Day, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery.  
Captain William Osterhorn, 51st Missouri Volunteers.  
Second Lieutenant Allen Ellsworth, 7th Iowa Cavalry.  
Second Lieutenant William I. Laird, 17th Illinois Cavalry.

#### EXEMPT FROM DISMISSAL.

The following named officers, charged with offences, and heretofore published, are exempt from being dismissed the service of the United States, the Military Commission instituted by Special Orders No. 53, series of 1863 from the War Department, having reported that satisfactory defence has been made in their respective cases, viz:

Surgeon D. B. Davendorf, 19th Wisconsin Volunteers.  
Captain O. F. Wiser, 22d New York Cavalry.

#### NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS.

The following officers, having been reported at the headquarters of the Army for the offences hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that they will stand dismissed the service of the United States unless within fifteen (15) days from Feb. 8, 1865, they appear before

the Military Commission in session in Washington, D. C., of which Brigadier General John C. Caldwell, United States Volunteers, is President, and make satisfactory defence to the charges against them:

#### Desertion.

Second Lieutenant Alexander Wilkie, 10th Vermont Volunteers.

#### Absence without leave.

Captain Carl Moritz, 37th Ohio Volunteers.  
Lieutenant-Colonel George L. Montague, 37th Massachusetts Volunteers.

Major George N. Van Beek, 33d Missouri Volunteers.  
First Lieutenant Robert M. Reed, 33d Missouri Volunteers.

Surgeon Ernst Weller, 52d New York Volunteers.  
Captain Joseph B. Homan, 99th Indiana Volunteers.

Captain Samuel Moore, 99th Indiana Volunteers.  
Captain Charles M. Scott, 99th Indiana Volunteers.

Second Lieutenant Henry Miller, 99th Indiana Volunteers.

#### EXPEDITION OF GENERAL GRIERSON.

##### HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI,

MEMPHIS, TENN., January 8, 1865.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. T. CHRISTENSEN, Assistant Adjutant-General Military Division West Mississippi:

I have the gratifying opportunity of reporting the result of another very successful expedition to the major-general commanding.

The cavalry expedition sent by me from this point against the Mobile and Ohio Railroad has reached Vicksburg in safety and in good condition, with about 550 prisoners, 1,000 negroes, and 800 horses and mules.

General Grierson has just arrived here, and his force will follow as fast as transportation can be procured. When his brigade commanders arrive and I receive his report I will forward it to you. Meanwhile I give you the following outline of the work done:

The expedition left here on the 21st of December in wretched weather, and moved directly east, threatening Corinth. Detachments were sent out which cut the telegraph from Grand Junction to Corinth, and also cut it and destroyed four bridges between Booneville and Guntown on the Mobile and Ohio Road. The main column then moved rapidly on Tupelo, and on Christmas night surprised, captured, and dispersed Forrest's dismounted camp at Verona.

Here they captured six officers and twenty men, destroyed two trains of sixteen cars each, loaded with new wagons, pontoons, supplies, &c., for Hood, burnt 300 army wagons, most of which had been captured from Sturgis, destroyed 4,000 new English carbines which were for Forrest's command, and large amounts of ordnance stores and ammunition, with quartermaster's stores and commissary stores for Hood's army.

From Verona the command moved south along the line of the road, destroying it thoroughly to a point between Egypt and Prairie Station.

At Oklahoma telegrams were taken from the wires from Lieutenant-General Taylor and Major-General Gardner, ordering Egypt to be held at all hazards, and promising reinforcements from Mobile and other points.

On the morning of the 28th the enemy was attacked at Egypt. General Grierson reports them about 1,200 strong, with infantry, cavalry, and four guns on platform cars.

Two trains loaded with infantry, under Gardner, were in sight when the attack was made. A force was thrown between them and the garrison, and Gardner had the mortification to see his friends dispersed after a fight of two hours, and the stockade carried by assault, and its defenders, to the number of about 500 captured.

The Rebel Brigadier Goshorn was among the killed. Another train of fourteen cars was destroyed here.

The command was now incumbered with so many prisoners and animals that, with the hostile force in front, it was useless to think longer of going to Cahaba.

Accordingly the column turned west and southwest, through Houston and Bellefontaine, to the Mississippi Central Railroad, striking it at Winona. A detachment was sent to Rankston, which destroyed the large and valuable factories which worked 500 hands to supply the Rebel Army with cloth, clothing and shoes. Large quantities of wool, cloth and leather were destroyed. A detachment was sent to Grenada, which destroyed the new machine shops and all public property in the place. A brigade was sent south from Grenada, under Colonel Osband, which destroyed the road and telegraph for thirty-five miles, and then met a brigade of the enemy under Wirt Adams at Franklin; charged and drove them from the field, leaving twenty-five of their dead on the ground.

The troops arrived at Vicksburg on the 8th of January. About forty miles on each road is destroyed, including a large number of bridges, telegraph, depots, switches, turn-tables, and water tanks, four serviceable locomotives and ten which were undergoing repairs, about 100 cars, a pile-driver and engine, 700 fat hogs, very large amounts of corn and wheat, and 1,000 stand of new arms at Egypt, in addition to the 4,000 destroyed at Verona.

I believe this expedition, in its damaging results to the enemy, is second in importance to none during the war.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully,

N. J. T. DANA, Major-General.

##### HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION WEST MISSISSIPPI,

NEW ORLEANS, LA., January 18, 1865.

SIR:—Your communication of the 8th instant, giving a detailed account of the highly successful expedition led by Brigadier-General Grierson, and which resulted in the complete interruption of the enemy's communications by the Mobile and Ohio and the Mississippi Central Railroads, has been received.

The Major-General commanding desires to express to you his gratification at this glorious and, I might say, almost unexpected success.

The expedition was planned and started under very great disadvantages, and with anything but promising prospects; but for the high degree of skill, bravery, and good conduct which was evinced throughout, such magnificent results could never have been accomplished.

He desires me to convey to you, and through you to the officers and men composing this expedition, his warmest congratulations and thanks. We all feel that such blows are indeed death blows to the rebellion.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,  
C. T. CHRISTENSEN, Lieutenant-Colonel, A. A. G.

Major-General N. J. T. DANA, Commanding Department of Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee.

#### CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew J. Alexander, Assistant Adjutant-General of the Seventeenth Army corps, to be brigadier-general by brevet.

Private Ernst S. Kinney, to be second lieutenant First regiment United States cavalry.

#### NAVY GAZETTE.

##### CIRCULAR.

##### UNIFORM OF A VICE-ADMIRAL.

The uniform of a Vice-Admiral shall be the same as that prescribed for a Rear-Admiral in the Regulations of January 25, 1864, with the following exceptions:

**Cap Ornaments.**—Three silver stars, instead of two, above the gold wreath—the third one equidistant from and below the others, and partially covering a gold embroidered foul anchor, placed vertically.

**Shoulder Straps.**—Three silver stars, instead of two—the centre one partially covering a gold foul anchor one inch in length placed nearly horizontally, the tip of one of the rays passing through the ring of the anchor.

**Sleeve Ornaments.**—A strip of gold lace two inches wide, with the lower edge an inch from the end of the sleeve, and two other strips of gold lace one inch wide, with a space of half an inch between the wide and narrow laces, respectively; also, the gold star worn by line officers.

**Overcoat Ornaments.**—Three silver stars on each end of the collar—two parallel with the end, the other in the rear of them—forming an equilateral triangle.

**CHANGE IN SLEEVE ORNAMENTS OF REAR-ADMIRALS.**  
The sleeve ornaments for a Rear-Admiral shall be the same as for a Vice-Admiral, except that there shall be one strip of gold lace, instead of two.

##### SACK COATS.

Sack coats of Navy blue flannel or blue cloth, may be worn as "service dress" by all officers, on board ship and in the United States, except at general muster or upon special occasions of ceremony, when a different dress is prescribed by the commanding officer; but never on shore, or on board ship on duty, in a foreign port. Shoulder straps and lace on the sleeves may be dispensed with on sack coats—retaining the star for line officers—in which case the designation of rank will be worn on the ends of the collar, omitting the centre ornament, except when it alone indicates rank. Sack coats shall be single breasted, with a row of five buttons in front.

GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, January 14, 1865.

#### CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

Captain John A. Winslow, to be a commodore in the Navy, from the 19th of June, 1864.

Lieutenant William B. Cushing, to be a lieutenant-commander, from October 27, 1864.

Second Lieutenant Charles S. Sherman, to be first lieutenant in the Marine corps.

Passed Assistant Surgeon John Paul Quinn, to be surgeon in United States Navy.

Acting Volunteer-Lieutenants Edward Hooker, E. F. Devins and J. W. Smith, to be acting volunteer-lieutenant commanders.

Acting Master James K. Wheeler, to be acting volunteer-lieutenant.

Acting First Assistant Engineers Charles Louis Cady, John F. Reilly, Marshal Trowbridge Chenevix and John D. Williamson, to be acting chief engineers.

Acting First Assistant Engineers Samuel Beckerstaff, Don Carlos Haseltine, John G. Scott, Thomas Sheffer, Isham J. Hardy, William J. Bullington and George H. Atkinson, to be acting chief engineers.

Lieutenant Henry B. Sealey, A. V. McNairn, A. R. Yates and Clark Marchant, to be lieutenant-commanders in the Navy.

First Lieutenant William H. Hall, to be captain in the Marine corps.

Second Lieutenant George M. Welles, to be first lieutenant in the Marine corps.

Edward K. Miller, Richard E. Neill and Horatio R. Bigelow, to be second lieutenants in the Marine corps.

#### REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

##### ORDERED.

JANUARY 30.—Lieutenant John W. Philip, to the *Wachusett*.  
Chief Engineer William H. Rutherford, to temporary duty in connection with the machinery of the *Tonawanda*, at Philadelphia, Pa.

JANUARY 31.—Paymaster R. C. Spalding, to duty at the Naval Station, Mount City, Illinois.

FEBRUARY 1.—Midshipman C. F. Goodrich, A. G. Caldwell, Charles W. Kennedy, B. H. McCallis, F. E. Chadwick, S. H. Baker, Theodore E. Jewett, Charles F. Schmitz, George W. Armstrong, D. C. Woodrow, Henry C. White, Thomas T. Wilson, Francis H. Sheppard, E. M. Steinman, J. C. Kennett, William M. Folger, Horace Elmer, B. P. Lauberton, John Schouler, James B. Weaver, Francis W. Dickens, George F. F. Weld, Charles H. Davis, Jr., Charles J. Train, George N. Figue, Edwin White, Oscar C. Heyerman, H. C. Raebel, George W. Piquan, Samuel L. Wilson and G. V. Menzies, to duty at New York.

FEBRUARY 2.—Commander E. W. Carpenter, to duty as Inspector at the Navy Yard, New York.

FEBRUARY 3.—Captain John A. Winslow, to duty under the direction of Rear-Admiral Gregory.

FEBRUARY 4.—Third Assistant Engineers Frederick L. Miller, to the Navy Yard, Pensacola, Fla.

##### DETACHED.

JANUARY 28.—Captain Charles S. Boggs, from special duty at New York, and ordered to the *Connecticut*.

JANUARY 30.—Surgeon George Maulsby, Assistant Surgeon H. S. Pitkin, Acting Ensigns D. K. Caswell, C. D. Sigbee, and C. H. Penleton, Chief Engineer Mortimer Kellogg, Second Assistant Engineer Joel A. Ballard, George E. Tower, Thomas Lynch, and William H. G. West, Boatswain Robert McDonald, Carpenter Robert G. Thomas and Sailsmaker D. C. Bragton, from the *Brooklyn*, and waiting orders.

Lieutenant Thomas L. Swann, from the *Brooklyn*, and ordered to the Naval Academy.

Paymaster G. E. Thornton, from the *Brooklyn*, when the crew are transferred and paid off, and ordered to render his accounts to the 4th Auditor of the Treasury.

Lieutenant Commander Lester A. Beardslee, from the *Wachusett*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the *Connecticut*.

Captain James Aiden, from the command of the *Brooklyn*, and waiting orders.

JANUARY 31.—Gunner John Webster, from the *St. Lawrence*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the *Colorado*.

Paymaster A. H. Gilman, from the Naval Station, Mount City, Illinois, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Gunner William Wilson, from the *Colorado*, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Paymaster William A. Ingersoll, from the *Colorado*, after having made the transfer as directed, and ordered to settle his accounts.

FEBRUARY 2.—Vice-Admiral D. G. Farragut, from special duties directed in order of 24th January, 1865.

Commander A. S. Baldwin, from duty as Inspector at New York, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

FEBRUARY 3.—Commander A. K. Hughes, and Paymaster C. C. Jackson, from duty under Acting Rear-Admiral Lee, and ordered to the same duty under Commodore Livingston, at Mount City, Illinois.

Lieutenant-Commander F. H. Baker, from the command of the *Vicksburg*, and placed on sick leave.

Lieutenant-Gouverneur K. Haswell, from the Naval Rendezvous, Brooklyn, and ordered to the Naval Rendezvous commanded by Captain Oscar Bullis, at New York.

Acting Ensign G. M. McClure, from special duty under Captain Bullis, and waiting orders.

Surgeon James McClelland, from the *Colorado*, and waiting orders.

##### ORDERS SUSPENDED.

JANUARY 30.—Commander A. S. Baldwin, to command the receiving ship *Constellation*, and ordered to resume his duties as Inspector at the Navy Yard, New York.

##### RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

JANUARY 28.—Midshipman William H. Cole, at the Naval Academy.

FEBRUARY 3.—Midshipman William N. Whelan, at the Naval Academy.

FEBRUARY 4.—Midshipman William Kearney, at the Naval Academy.

##### APPOINTED.

Charles K. Warren, of the *Naubuc*, Third Assistant Engineer.

##### APPOINTMENTS REVOKED.

FEBRUARY 2.—Assistant Surgeon L. J. Draper.

#### VOLUNTEER NAVAL SERVICE.

##### ORDERED.

JANUARY 30.—Acting Master C. W. Lamson, Acting Ensigns C. E. Beck, T. J. Rollins and Thomas E. Ashmead, to the *Florida*.

Acting Master's Mate Charles Cameron, to the *Florida*.

JANUARY 31.—Acting Assistant Paymaster Henry S. Machette, to the *Donegal*.

FEBRUARY 2.—Acting Master H. L. Sturges, to the *James Adger*.

FEBRUARY 3.—Acting Assistant Paymaster George R. Watkins to duty as pay officer of the *Whithead* and the vessels whose accounts are in charge of Acting Paymaster J. G. Orme.

Acting Master J. H. Atkinson, to the *Sabine*.

FEBRUARY 4.—Acting Assistant Paymaster R. S. McConnell, to the *Nipisc*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon George C. Reynolds to the *Chesango*.  
Acting Assistant Paymasters E. F. Sheridan and James W. Hanson, to instruction at New York.



## DETACHED.

JANUARY 30.—Acting Master Robert Barstow, Acting Ensigns C. H. Littlefield and H. H. Arthur, from the *Brooklyn*, and waiting orders.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Robert D. Giberson, Acting Third Assistant Engineers John Mathews and Timothy Flanders, from the *Brooklyn*, and ordered to the *Towanda*.

Acting Master Edmund Kemble, from the command of the *Nippon*, and ordered to the West Gulf Squadron.

Acting Master's Mate James W. De Camp, Thomas Stanfield and R. O. Tyler, from the *Brooklyn*, and waiting orders.

JANUARY 31.—Acting Master's Mate Arthur B. Arcey, Edward A. Gould, A. F. Tucker, Martin V. Thomas and J. W. Wallace, from the *Colorado*, and granted leave for two weeks, at the expiration of which they are ordered to report for instruction and detail on board the *Savannah* at New York.

Acting Ensign Franklin E. Ford, from the *Keystone State*, and granted sick leave.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Frederick F. Baury, Acting Masters Edwin Coffin and L. B. King, Acting Ensigns J. L. Vennard and Willis G. Perry, Acting Third Assistant Engineers J. P. Messer, William B. Whitmore and O. C. Fensholt, from the *Colorado*, and waiting orders.

Acting Ensign James E. Hulbert, from the *Massachusetts*, and ordered to the South Atlantic Squadron.

FEBRUARY 1.—Acting Second Assistant Engineer Arthur M. Sawtell, from the *Donghai*, and ordered to the *Albatross*.

FEBRUARY 2.—Acting Ensign Philo P. Hawkes, from the *Fearnol*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer John F. Fitzpatrick, from the *Agamemnon*, and ordered to the *Nippon*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Stephen Raud, from the *Merrimac*, and ordered to the *Nippon*.

FEBRUARY 3.—Acting Assistant Paymaster J. George Orme, from the *Whitehead*, and all duty at Newbern, N. C., on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North, and to settle his accounts.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer James W. Milstead, from the *Yankee*, and ordered to the *Donghai*.

## APPOINTED.

JANUARY 31.—Thomas J. Kelley, of the *Ohio*, Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to the *Wachusett*.

Robert Bickley Swift, of New York, Acting Second Assistant Engineer.

Adam Clark Collins, of Williamsburgh, L. I., John Cotter and Shubal Geor, of New York, Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and ordered to the *Florida*.

J. B. Tew, of the *Quaker City*, Acting Ensign, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

Charles H. Smitten, of the *Union*, Acting Ensign, and detached from that vessel and ordered to the East Gulf Squadron.

FEBRUARY 1.—George H. Thompson, Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.

Aaron Vanderbilt, of the *Malvern*, Acting Ensign, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

Perey O. Brightman, of the *Bienville*, Acting First Assistant Engineer; John S. Hays, of the *Elk*, William E. Deaver, of the *Pinola*, Richard Thall, of the *Kino*, and Charles A. Laws, of the *Raska*, Acting Second Assistant Engineers, and ordered to remain in the West Gulf Squadron.

Henry K. Stever, of Washington, D. C., Acting Second Assistant Engineer; Charles Bradley, of Philadelphia, George Washington Ellis, of Trenton, N. J., and William Duncan Clark, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and ordered to the *Pinta*.

Charles H. Freeman, of the *Circassian*, Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

FEBRUARY 2.—William H. Smith, of the *Miantonomah*, Acting First Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Thomas Gavagan, of the *Chenango*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Newell W. Brown, of Boston, Mass., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Nippon*.

Edward Brady, of Washington, D. C., Acting Boatswain, and ordered to the *St. Louis*.

George Owen Burgess, of the U. S. General Hospital, New Haven, Conn., and ordered to the *Forest Rose*, Mississippi Squadron.

FEBRUARY 3.—Philip Little and Winfield Scott Kaufman, of Baltimore, Md., Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and ordered to the *Roanoke*.

James W. Wilson, of New York, Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *North Carolina*.

FEBRUARY 4.—Joseph W. Pardee, Acting Master's Mate, for duty in the Mississippi Squadron, and ordered to Cairo, Ill.

## CONFIRMATIONS.

JANUARY 31.—Acting Master's Mate Charles H. Freeman, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Masters and Pilots Charles Tooker and Samuel O. Scranton, of the North Atlantic Squadron, for special duty as such.

Acting Ensigns Noah D. Joyce and Otis L. Haskell, and ordered to instruction at New York.

FEBRUARY 1.—Acting Master's Mate Geddes Smith, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master's Mate James Henry, of the *Acacia*, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

FEBRUARY 2.—Acting Ensign Robert Hunter, of the *Wanderer*, and ordered to remain in East Gulf Squadron.

Acting Ensign Joseph E. Armstrong, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master's Mate Elias W. Rich, of the *Stars and Stripes*, and ordered to remain in the East Gulf Squadron.

FEBRUARY 3.—Acting Ensigns Alexander Lewis and L. W. Savage, and ordered to instruction at New York.

FEBRUARY 4.—Acting Ensigns Edward C. Remington and Isaac V. Braloy, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master's Mate Horace F. Pickering, to instruction at New York.

## RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

JANUARY 30.—Acting Assistant Paymaster Henry T. Mansfield, of the *Nippon*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Ross M. Myers, of the hospital ship *Red Rover*, Mississippi Squadron.

JANUARY 31.—Acting Master's Mate Edward Thompson, of the *Vanderbilt*.

FEBRUARY 1.—Acting Master C. B. Dahlgren, of the *Gettysburg*.

Acting Master's Mate Joseph H. Lovejoy.

FEBRUARY 2.—Acting Ensign Thomas H. Marks, at the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.

Acting Assistant Surgeon R. Cadwallader, of the *Forest Rose*, Mississippi Squadron, on the reporting of his relief.

FEBRUARY 3.—Acting Master Norman Fenfield, of the *Sabine*.

Acting Ensign William H. McLean.

## APPOINTMENTS REVOKED.

JANUARY 30.—Acting Master's Mate Frank N. Schooley, of the *Silver Lake*, Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Robert A. Haldman, at Hospital Pinkney.

Acting Master's Mate J. S. Dubois, of the *Silver Lake*, Mississippi Squadron.

Acting First Assistant Engineer Nathan D. Smith, of the *Nymph*, Mississippi Squadron.

JANUARY 31.—Acting Ensign and Pilot Benjamin F. Ricketson, of the *Colorado*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer William S. Dobson, at the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.

Acting Boatswain Joseph Hunter, of the *Constellation*.

FEBRUARY 2.—Acting Third Assistant Engineer G. W. Best, of Philadelphia.

Acting Master's Mate John W. Davis, of the Naval Hospital, Washington, D. C.

## PROMOTED.

JANUARY 30.—Acting Ensign John F. Otis, of the *Mary Sanford*, to Acting Master, U. S. N.

JANUARY 31.—Acting Ensign F. P. B. Sands, of the *Gettysburg*, to Acting Master, U. S. N.

## DISMISSED.

FEBRUARY 3.—Acting First Assistant Engineer Samuel Gether, late of the *Water Witch*.

Acting Ensign George Dann, of the Mississippi Squadron.

## ORDERS REVOKED.

FEBRUARY 3.—The order revoking the appointment of Acting Third Assistant Engineer John Black, dated January 6th, 1865, is hereby revoked, and he is ordered to the *Donghai*.

## LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, during the week ending February 4, 1865:

Adolphus Shultz, landsman, December 28, 1864, U. S. schooner *M. A. Wood*.

James H. Couch, coal-heaver, January 4, 1865, Naval Hospital, New Orleans.

James Henry, first-class boy, December 7, 1864, Naval Hospital, New Orleans.

Christopher Davis, landsman, January 9, 1865, Naval Hospital, New Orleans.

John Flood, landsman, January 11, 1865, Naval Hospital, Pensacola.

William Unitt, coal-heaver, January 13, 1865, Naval Hospital, Pensacola.

George Flynn, seaman, January 24, 1865, U. S. receiving ship *Princeton*.

Joseph Lewis, boatswain, January 28, 1865, Charlestown, Mass.

Alfred Dolvin, colored, landsman, January 8, 1865, Naval Hospital, St. Helena Island, S. C.

George Handy, colored, landsman, January 11, 1865, U. S. ship *New Hampshire*.

Fountain Beasley, colored, landsman, January 13, 1865, U. S. ship *New Hampshire*.

Jacob Simmons, colored, landsman, January 17, 1865, U. S. ship *New Hampshire*.

William Cephas or Seaphus, colored, landsman, December 27, 1864, Naval Hospital, St. Helena Island, South Carolina.

John Mulligan, ordinary seaman, January 27, 1865, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Benjamin Whitby, apprentice boy, January 27, 1865, U. S. ship *Sabine*.

Peter McIntyre, seaman, January 28, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.

John Smith, seaman, January 18, 1865, Marine Hospital, Key West.

Thomas Pepper, first-class boy, December 23, 1864, U. S. steamer *Jacob Bell*.

Michael Mahon, coal-heaver, January 28, 1865, Naval Hospital, Chelsea.

T. H. Jones, seaman, December 30, 1864, hospital ship *Red Rover*.

James Johnson, seaman, January 6, 1865, hospital ship *Red Rover*.

Zenia W. Austin, landsman, January 11, 1865, hospital ship *Red Rover*.

Charles Daily, seaman, January 17, 1865, hospital ship *Red Rover*.

Patrick Murray, landsman, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Nereus*.

Frederick Moran, coxswain, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Nereus*.

Frederick Untiedt, seaman, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Nereus*.

Benjamin F. Hackney, landsman, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Pequot*.

William Williams, second-class fireman, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Fantic*.

Thomas Lemon, master-at-arms, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Fantic*.

James McGrath, marine, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Fort Jackson*.

Alex. C. Warren, coxswain, January 17, 1865, U. S. steamer *Santiago*.

Hans Anderson, January 17, 1865, U. S. steamer *Gettysburg*.

Henry Wadsworth, marine, January 16, 1865, U. S. steamer *Powhatan*.

John J. Hutchinson, landsman, January 21, 1865, U. S. steamer *New Ironides*.

Frederick R. Stow, acting assistant paymaster, January 5, 1865, U. S. steamer *Tristram Shandy*.

Thomas J. Lynch, marine, January 16, 1865, U. S. steamer *Tuscarora*.

Robert Garnett, seaman, January 23, 1865, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Joseph Tucker, apprentice boy, February 2, 1865, U. S. ship *Sabine*.

John McCaffrey, marine, February 1, 1865, Naval Asylum.

## MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

## ASSIGNMENTS.

Assistant Surgeon Edward J. Darken, U. S. A., to duty as 'Treasurer of Officers' Hospital, Louisville, Ky., in addition to his present duties.

Assistant Surgeon S. M. Horton, U. S. A., relieved from duty in the Department of the Gulf, and ordered to duty as Medical Director, Department of the Missouri.

## RESIGNED.

Burgeon Henry Buckmaster, U. S. Vols.

## VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

SIDE-WHEEL steamer *Suwanee*, 10, sailed from the Philadelphia Yard on Friday, the 3d.

The death of Colonel Washington A. Bartlett, formerly of United States Navy, is announced. Colonel Bartlett organized the famous Naval Brigade.

U. S. IRON-CLAD *Cincinnati*, 12 guns and 512 tons, is afflicted with a contagious disease and is lying at quarantine on the Kentucky side of the Ohio river.

The following United States vessels were off Galveston Jan. 18:—*Lackawanna*, Captain Emmons, flagship; steamers *Bienville*, *Virginia*, *Osyga*, *Gertrude*, *Princess Royal*.

The naval constructors have succeeded in getting the House Naval Committee to report a resolution allowing Secretary Welles to appoint a board to adjudicate their claims.

Screw steamer *Minnesota*, 52, has been ordered from Fort Fisher to the Portsmouth Yard, for thorough repairs. She is greatly in need of overhauling, and will probably go out of commission.

U. S. STEAM propeller *Treboli* (new, about 380 tons), built at East Boston, made a trial trip on Thursday. Acting Master J. F. Dearborn, and First Assistant Engineer J. M. Hobby were present to note her performance.

The following prizes are ready for distribution: *Antonia*, captured by the *Pocahontas*; *Corra* and *Maria*, captured by the *Kingston* and the *Rachel Seaman*; three hundred and forty five bales and seventeen bags of cotton, captured by the *Keystone State*.

By the supply steamer *Kensington*, which arrived at New York on the 6th, from Port Royal, on the 1st, the following Navy officers came as passengers: Lieutenant-Commander T. S. Phelps, Ensign C. L. Lawrence, Acting Master's Mate James Hawkins.

ADMIRAL LEE and staff have arrived at New Orleans on the flagship *Black Hawk*. He is located on the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio Rivers. FRANCIS GRICE, formerly Naval Constructor in the Philadelphia Yard, died in Philadelphia on Thursday, at the age of 77.

A COURT-MARTIAL is now in session on board the receiving ship *Vandalia* at the Portsmouth Yard, for the trial of Corporal Clements, of the marines, for smuggling liquor on board. Lieut. H. J. Bishop of the marines is president of the court, and Paymaster W. H. Gilman, recorder.

ADMIRAL GOLDBERGER is in Washington perfecting the organization of the fleet for European waters. It will be composed of some of the 'largest and finest frigates which the recent naval successes have re-

leased from blockade duty, and possibly an iron-clad (one of the large class) may be added to it.

The iron-clad *Agamemnon* is fast approaching completion at the Portsmouth Yard. She is 260 feet long, 50 feet beam, and 15 feet deep; her capacity is 1564 tons, having four guns and two turrets. Work was commenced upon her in the latter part of 1863. The turrets will be ready to turn by steam in a few days.

The crew of the rebel steamer *Florida*, captured in the harbor of Bahia by the United States steamer *Wachusett*, were liberated last week by order of the Government. They numbered about thirty. They were taken from Fort Warren in a tug, and placed on board the British steamer *Canada*, which sailed from Boston, on the 1st, for Halifax.

PRIZE steamer *Blenheim* arrived at the Brooklyn Yard on Saturday last. She is a side-wheel iron steamer, very fast, has a full cargo of arms and ammunition, and is in charge of Lieutenant Smith, Acting Ensigns W. H. Otis, H. W. Loring, Second Assistant Engineer H. W. Miller, Third Assistant Engineers R. Wathen, L. D. Arville and Master's Mate R. T. Clifford. She brought fifty discharged seamen from Admiral Porter's fleet.

SIDE-WHEEL steamer *Merrimac*, 6, from Portsmouth for Key West, passed Edgartown on the 3d inst. While she was lying in the lower harbor of Portsmouth, on the night of the 1st, six substitute sailors seized the opportunity to escape. A large number of shots were fired at them, but none seemed effectual to induce them to return. Two of them were caught, however, by some of the soldiers at Fort McClary. The remainder are at large.

CONSIDERABLE excitement has been created in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in consequence of the closing of one of the chief naval rendezvous and recruiting stations, and the arrest of the proprietors, on a charge of fraudulent practice in enlisting recruits. About twenty persons in all have been arrested for complicity in this case, and a most thorough system of villany unmasked. One good effect of the arrest is to clean the streets leading to the Navy Yard of the crowds of loafers that have for months blocked up the way.

THE Monitor *Suncook*, which was launched at South Boston wharf on Wednesday, the 12, is one of the twenty-one built for shoal water, which proved failures, and have since had their decks raised 22 inches. She is 225 feet long over all, 45 feet beam, and has all her machinery and boilers on board. Her turret and pilot house are to be put on at the wharf. Her armor is three inches thick, and the solid timber amidships between the armor and the main hull is four feet thick. The deck of solid timber is covered with double ½ inch plates.

At the Washington Yard, a series of interesting experiments on steam and boilers are being made, conducted by officers detailed by the Bureau of Steam Engineering. Side-wheel steamer *Academy*, 12, is under repairs. Screw steamer *Currituck*, 5, has been thoroughly repaired. Side-wheel steamers *Commodore Reed*, 6, and *Cour de Lion*, 2, will join the Potomac Flotilla this week. Side-wheel steamer *Stepping Stones*, 5, will be ready for service this week. Side-wheel steamer *Banisher*, 5, is awaiting the breaking up of the ice in the Potomac.

THE *Mobile*, a condemned side-wheel steamer, captured at New Orleans on the taking of that city by Admiral Farragut, was to have been sold, Wednesday last, at auction. A large number of speculators assembled at the hour appointed, but no fair bid being made the sale was postponed. The vessel is now at New York undergoing renovation. She is the same size as the *Augusta*, of 1,300 tons burden. The *Muscola* has again returned to the Yard with a disabled rudder. The *Blenheim* prize on her way to Boston. *Kensington*, *Newbern*, schooner *Rachel Seaman*, the *Florida* and *Grand Gulf* from New York are the other arrivals. The *Queen* and *Horace Beals* have sailed. The *Rachel Seaman* sailed on Friday for Norfolk, and the *Newbern* for the North Atlantic Squadron leaves Saturday. The name of the purchased prize *Annie* has been changed to the *Preston*.

SINCE our last report there has been unusual activity at the Western Naval Station at Mount City. On the 21st ult. the flagship *Black Hawk*, bearing Admiral Lee's pennant, arrived from the Tennessee River, and during the week the *Pittsburg*, *Neosho*, *Lexington*, *Rainier* and *Fairy* followed. The flagship received her mails and supplies, and on the 23d started for New Orleans. It was the Admiral's intention to consult with General Canby, and on the way back inspect the squadron, but recent dispatches will overtake him and compel a speedier return. Details would, of course, be contraband, but we may intimate that the coming spring will not find our Western forces asleep. Already the bugle is sounding. The hull of the iron-clad *Indiana*, memorably, though unfortunately, connected with the Vicksburg campaign, has at last reached the Yard. She was towed up from the scene of her disgrace, is stripped of everything but her hull armor, and lies close to the battle-scarred *Tacumbia*. The magnificent naval hospital steamer *Red Rover*, Fleet Surgeon Pinkney's flagship, has returned from a short cruise, and will probably remain attached to the Station. Dr. Pinkney expects to leave the Squadron in a few weeks, and the *Red Rover* will come under the jurisdiction of Surgeon William T. Hord, now surgeon of the Yard and barracks. The *Cincinnati* and *Powhatan* are still in quarantine, though the contagion is abating. Commander Bryson has exchanged divisions with Lieutenant Commander Mitcheil and now has his headquarters at Mount City. A Court of Inquiry is in session on the *Fairy*. The *Hastings* has gone to her station.

WE have full particulars of the loss of screw steamer *Dai Ching*, 7, on the 26th ult., on the Combahee River. The vessel was co-operating with a movement of General Howard's military forces. On her way to the river she captured the blockade-runner *Cuquette*, bound from Charleston to Nassau, with seventy-five bales of cotton. The prize was immediately sent to Port Royal in charge of a prize crew. Soon after and when a few miles up the Combahee, the *Dai Ching* was fired upon by a rebel shore battery of heavy pieces at short range. The river was narrow, and the vessel, in endeavoring to turn, ran aground. Her officers and crew sustained the battle gallantly for seven consecutive hours, and crippled the fort seriously, but were at last compelled to give up the unequal contest. A boat which was sent for assistance, with Ensign Charles R. Duncan, and four men, was captured by the enemy. It was finally determined to abandon and destroy the vessel, which was done, the officers and men all escaping safely, although with great difficulty, in small boats. The *Dai Ching* has done good service since she was attached to the South Atlantic Squadron. The officers saved nothing in the way of personal property. A Court of Inquiry to investigate the cause of the loss of the *Dai Ching* was organized on the last day of January on board of the United States steamer *Ticonderoga*. The court consists of Commander J. Almy, President, Commander Egbert Thompson and Lieutenant George B. White. Acting Assistant Paymaster John T. Lee is Judge-Advocate. The Court is directed particularly to inquire into the conduct of the commanding officer of the steam-tug *Clover*, who is alleged to have been derelict in not assisting the *Dai Ching*, when she grounded within short-range of the rebel battery.



## RECOLLECTIONS OF A NOBLE YOUTH.

THE new year revives the memory of many removed by death. Among the gallant young Americans whose lives have been given to the service of the country, there are few whose loss will touch more hearts with sorrow than that of EDWARD BOWMAN, of California, lately of the United States Navy. A graduate of Harvard University, he entered the service bearing with him the love of his fellow-students, the respect of the faculty for his varied scholarship and exemplary deportment, and the esteem of a wide circle of friends who appreciated his many virtues. Though of Southern birth, he rejected the contracted and provincial sentiments which led so many young men to sacrifice the interests of a great nation to sectional prejudices or the unmeaning theories of State rights. His views were national rather than provincial, and when the guns of an insurgent State were turned upon Fort Sumter, with other students of Harvard, he was eager to join the throng of patriots who rallied to the defence of the national flag. But, restrained by the advice of his professors, and the affectionate counsel of friends to whom he never turned a deaf ear, he continued his studies until the autumn of 1862, when he graduated with high honors, and at once entered the naval service, to which he adapted himself as readily as if cradled upon the sea. He was attached to the war steamer *Virginia*, of the Gulf Squadron.

In the autumn of 1863 he participated in the movements of the Army and Navy at Brazos Santiago, and on the Rio Grande, in the capture of the works at Aransas Pass and Pass Cavallo, on Matagorda Bay; and later, we believe, in the attack upon Forts Morgan and Gaines, at Mobile Bay. No officer connected with the naval service gave higher promise of an honorable career. He was esteemed alike by officers and men. It had been his intention to learn the profession for a commercial career on the Pacific coast, for which he had been specially educated, whenever the country should no longer require his services. His active and perilous duties were cheered by the hope that an early peace would release him from labors to which he had been called only by the exigencies of his country. His destiny did not accord to him the fulfillment of his cherished wish. He contracted the yellow fever from the ports on the Gulf, which resulted in his death at New Orleans in the last week of October, 1864, at 23 years of age. His life was pure, his preparations for its trials thorough, his industry proverbial, his opinions liberal, his ambition elevated, and his name without reproach. He had a manliness above his years and a maturity of judgment beyond that imparted by his brief experience. He left a high destiny incomplete, and a void in many hearts that can never be filled.

THE investigations of Dr. Nichols, Superintendent of the Government Hospital for the insane, show that the progress of war has been attended with a decrease of the causes of the mental derangement in the Army. The increase, as the war continues, in the proportion of acclimated and injured men, the better knowledge of the importance and modes of practical prophylactics which prevails among the troops, and their exemption from new or more active moral disturbances, have without doubt, diminished the number and force of those agencies which are calculated to unbalance the sound mind. The number of Army patients at the Insane Hospital, at the close of the last fiscal year, was 186, of which five were colored men. The Navy has contributed 19 patients, of which five were colored men; and four rebel prisoners have needed medical treatment.

THE Secretary of the Treasury has, with the approval of the President, designated the port of Fernandina, Florida, as a place for the purchase of the products of the insurrectionary States on Government account, in accordance with the provisions of the 8th section of the act of Congress, approved July 24, 1864, and Hallet Kilbourne, of Indiana, has been appointed agent for that place, and will proceed at an early day to the discharge of the duties of his office.

A BILL is before the New York Assembly to incorporate the "Soldier Messenger Corps." The plan is to establish in the city of New York, a corps of disabled soldiers and sailors as messengers, on a plan similar to that carried out in London, after the Crimean war.

## (Advertisement.)

Do not waste your money buying any of the numerous worthless articles called GOLD PENS which have flooded the market for the last few years; when at lower prices you can get pens which are acknowledged to be the BEST IN THE WORLD.

See in another column: "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword."

## (Special Notice.)

W. W. Broom will give an entertainment next Wednesday evening, in the Croton Hall, 187 Bowery. It is

entitled "A Merry Night for Merry People, or Anecdotes, Non-sense, Recitations and Imitations." We urge all our friends who can make it convenient to pay Mr. Broom a visit. To commence at 8 o'clock.

## An Article of True Merit.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES are the most popular article in this country or Europe for Throat Diseases, Coughs and Colds, and this popularity is based upon real merit. This result has been acquired by a test of many years, and "The Troches" continue to stand the first in public favor and confidence.

A Neglected Cough, Cold or Sore Throat, which might be checked by a simple remedy, like "Brown's Bronchial Troches," if allowed to progress may terminate seriously. For Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh and Consumptive Coughs, "The Troches" are used with advantage, giving oftentimes immediate relief. Their good reputation and extensive use has brought out many worthless imitations, which we would caution purchasers to be on their guard against. OBTAIN ONLY BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

"I have never changed my mind respecting them from the first, excepting to think yet better of that which I began thinking well of."

REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

"For Throat Troubles they are a specific."

N. F. WILLIS.

"Contains no opium nor anything injurious."

DR. A. A. HAYES, Chemist, Boston.

"An elegant combination for Coughs."

DR. G. F. BIGLOW, Boston.

"I recommend their use to Public Speakers."

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"I have been afflicted with Bronchitis, and found no relief until I found your 'Bronchial Troches.'"

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Principal of Rutgers' Female Institute, New York.

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"I never knew such a wonderful cure for Hoarseness."

W. RANDALL, Oxford Music Hall.

"I have tried your 'Troches,' and can testify to their efficacy."

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"The 'Troches' give great satisfaction."

T. W. R. LEE, Editor Loughborough Monitor.

"Very beneficial in clearing the Throat, when compelled to sing though suffering from cold."

AINSLIE COOKE.

Of the "Royal Italian Opera," London.

Miss LOUISE FRY, of the "Royal Italian Opera," speaks of "The Troches" in the highest terms, and uses them constantly to clear and strengthen the voice.

Sold everywhere at 35 cents a Box.

JOHN I. BROWN & SON, Boston.

London House, 205 High Holborn.

## MARRIED.

(Announcements of marriages should be paid for at the rate of fifty cents each.)

GREEN—BOND.—At Edenton, N. C., at the residence of the bride's parents, January 19, by Rev. Dr. Skinner, Acting Minister JAMES G. GREEN, U.S.N., to CORNELIA F., daughter of Samuel Bond, Esq., of the above place.

## DIED.

KELLOGG.—At Beaufort, S. C., January 16, of wounds received January 14, on the skirmish line near Pocotaligo, S. C., Captain ROGER B. KELLOGG, of Co. A, 15th Iowa Vols., picket officer of the 4th division, 17th Army corps, aged 25 years.

Burlington, Vt., papers please copy.

WEBSTER.—In Officers' Hospital, Beaufort, S. C., January 25, Lieutenant FRED. H. WEBSTER, of the 54th Massachusetts Vols., only son of John G. Webster, of Boston.

DOWNS.—At Buenos Ayres, River Plate, on board the U.S. steamer *Jacqueline*, Boatwain JOHN H. DOWNS, U.S.N., in the 36th year of his age.

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

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Assistant Secretaries of War.

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Office—in charge of Captain G. K. Lee, Assistant Adjutant General, 29 Winder's Building, 2d floor.

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537 17th street.

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Colonel M. L. Ludington, Chief Quartermaster Department of Washington—office, 534, 536, 538, and 540 14th street, near New York avenue.

Captain H. L. Thayer, Assistant Quartermaster Volunteers, Post Quartermaster—office, 232 G street.

Captain D. G. Thomas, Military Store Keeper—304 H, near 17th street.

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Brigadier General J. K. Barnes, Surgeon General—Office corner 15th street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Lieutenant-Colonel John M. Cuyler, Acting Medical Inspector General, U. S. Army—Office, No. 302 H street, corner of 17th street, first floor.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Wilson, Medical Inspector U. S. Army, Inspector of the Army of the Potomac—Office, at Rev. Dr. Samuel's Columbian College, Washington, D. C.

Surgeon R. O. Abbott, Medical Director, Department of Washington—132 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Surgeon Basil Norris, to attend officers of the regular Army—corner of 14th and G streets.

Surgeon Thomas Antisell, to attend officers of the Volunteer Army—Office in a frame building on the space between 18th and 19th streets, south side Pennsylvania Avenue.

Surgeon C. Sutherland, U. S. Army, Medical Purveyor—Office, 212 G street, near 18th.

General Hospitals are under the charge of Surgeon R. O. Abbott.

United States Army Medical Museum, H street, between 14th street and New York Avenue. Open daily, except Sundays, from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M.

Examining Board for Assistant Surgeons of Volunteers.

Thomas Antisell, President—Office, in a frame building on the space between 18th and 19th streets, south side Pennsylvania Avenue.

## Pay Department.

Brevet Brigadier General B. W. Brice, Acting Paymaster—corner F and 15th streets.

Chief Clerk E. H. Brooke, Examination of Accounts—211 F street.

Major Hutchins—Discharge Office of all officers, corner F and 15th streets.

Major Rochester—Discharge Office of all officers—corner F and 15th streets.

Major Potter—Discharge office of regulars, corner F and 15th streets.

Major Taylor—Discharge Office of volunteer soldiers, corner 15th street and New York Avenue.

Engineer Department.

Brigadier General R. Delaisfield, Chief Engineer—Office, Winder's Building, corner F and 17th streets.

Ordnance Department.

Brigadier General A. B. Dyer, Chief—Office, Winder's Building, corner F and 17th streets.

Military Department of Washington.

Major General G. C. Angier, Commanding Department—Headquarters, cor. 15th street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Captain H. W. Smith, A. A. G., Discharge Office for Department—132 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Colonel T. Ingraham, Provost Marshal, District of Washington—corner 19th and I streets.

Defences of Washington.

Lieutenant-Colonel B. S. Alexander, Additional Aide-de-Camp and Major of Engineers—office northwest corner Pennsylvania Avenue and 19th street.

Miscellaneous.

Major General E. A. Hitchcock, Commissioner for exchange of Prisoners—Office, 25 Winder's Building, second floor.

Brigadier General Henry W. Wessels, Commissary General of Prisoners.

148 F street, corner of 20th street.

Brevet Brigadier General D. C. McCallum, Superintendent of Military Railroads—250 G street, near 17th street.

Brigadier General A. P. Howe, Chief of Artillery—corner 19th and H streets.

Cavalry Bureau—Office, 302 H street, under command of Major-General Halleck, Chief of Staff; Lieutenant-Colonel Ekin, in charge of purchase and inspection of horses, and quartermaster duties—Office, 374 H street.

Captain Henry Keteltas, Commissary of Masters—corner 19th and G streets.

Brevet Colonel C. W. Foster, Assistant Adjutant-General, Chief of Colored Bureau—331 17th street, opposite War Department.

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